

## How to be Loved and Happy...

Many people don't want to think about departing Earth. WISDOM is to be prepared, so physical death is simply "**a graduation to Heaven.**"

Because of God's LOVE for you and me, He sent Jesus Christ to Earth to die on the cross to pay for OUR sins. **Nails did not hold Jesus on the cross!** God's LOVE for you and me held Him on that cross. And, it is PROMISED in the Bible that because of His love for you and me, we CAN live in the glory and beauty of Heaven with Him.

**For God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only begotten Son (Christ on the cross) that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.** (John 3:16)

In John 14:1-6, Jesus promised to take all who have trusted Him as their personal Savior, to be with Him forever. In Revelation 21:1-8, God promised... no more tears, no more death, no more crying and no more pain **for us in Heaven.**

My dear friends  
**In Russia,**  
Alexander and  
Natasha, both  
trusted Christ  
as their Savior  
July 25, 1992.  
Later, due to  
severe medical  
complications,  
**he died on his  
41<sup>st</sup> birthday.**



Alexander and Natasha loved each other and their children very much. They also understood and believed the promises of the Bible, God's Word.

That is why, when Alexander died, Natasha said,  
**"Best birthday present he could ever have... to wake up in the presence of the Lord."**

Natasha read a story about a man who loaned a lady some jewels. Years later, he returned and asked for them back and she gave them to him. Her husband said, "*Why did you give them back?*" She replied, "*They were not mine to keep. They belonged to the owner*"

Natasha told me, "*Those jewels were just like Alexander. God loaned him to me for 18 years. He was not mine to keep. He belonged to God.*"



**RADIANT** with JOY the Lord gives her, Natasha knows some day, she will be with Jesus and Alexander in Heaven and is looking forward to it.

**Do you have that kind of JOY and PEACE in your heart about your death and that of your loved ones?**

**"... Being justified by faith, we have peace with God though our Lord Jesus Christ. ... God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** (Romans 5:1, 8)

**YES,** I do believe that Jesus Christ died and rose again to pay for MY sins and MY salvation. Lord Jesus, I trust you and receive you as my personal Savior. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me Eternal Life.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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# How to be LOVED and Happy



By Leon Bates



### Do you want to be loved and happy?

Of course, we all do. Our lives are MOSTLY about *relationships... loving and being loved.*

We live in a BEAUTIFUL world, don't we? **Why did God make COLORS?** Why didn't He just make everything black and white? Feast your eyes on the glorious displays of color that He gave us in **flowers**, trees, snow capped mountains and all of creation. Why did God give us such BEAUTIFUL COLORS? **He did it for our JOY.** **WHY? Just because He loves us.**

**Why did He give us music?** Even the birds instinctively sing to us. God gave us beautiful music for our delight and pleasure... **our JOY.**

He also gave us the **emotional capacity and ability to LOVE and BE LOVED.** No doubt you have experienced **love...** love for children, parents, a spouse and other friends. **WHY** did God give us this tremendous capacity and ability to love and be loved? **It is for our JOY.**

What do you think when you hold the tiny hands and tiny feet of a new born baby? **AWESOME!**

God gave us miraculous HUMAN bodies in which we live for a few short years. Did you ever thank Him for your eyes, ears, brain, feet, hands, lungs and heart and how they all work together so marvelously? Why did He give us such amazing bodies? **FOR OUR JOY... because He loves us.**

But most people are still MISSING the real JOY of life. Most just live in a "**SURVIVAL MODE.**" Day after day, they focus only on this earthly life. Often, their life is filled with stress, barely meeting their financial needs payday to payday.

Many dislike their job, but the need for survival keeps them in the prison of their daily routines. They work, eat, sleep... work, eat, sleep... work, eat and sleep in a cycle of mere survival. Along the way, **they hope... to be loved and happy.**

**Are YOU living only for this life?**

**GOOD NEWS:** God wants to give us **MORE** than mere survival. GOD WANTS TO GIVE US HIS VERY BEST IN OUR LIFE on Earth **AND** a **fantastic eternity with Him in Heaven.**

The Bible, God's Word, tells us that Jesus came to Earth that we might have life, and that we might have it **more abundantly**, a **HIGH QUALITY life.** (*John 10:10*) God wants you and me to have **Fellowship** with Him and His Son, Jesus Christ... **so our JOY may be full.** (*1<sup>st</sup> John 1:2, 3*)

In this life on Earth, all of us will experience times of sadness, perhaps even hardship, suffering, grief and tragedy. There may be **MANY** times when we will not like our circumstances, but we **can still have JOY.** YES, we can have JOY in the good times and... the difficult or challenging times.

**GOOD NEWS:** God has made provision so we can live victoriously in spite of any circumstances (*no matter what happens to us in this life*). He can free us from uncertainty, fear and worry. He can give us **PEACE, HOPE and JOY** now and forever. **He wants to give us His ABUNDANT LIFE.**