



September 2021



How to Celebrate the Good Things in Your Life

(Adapted from an article by Peyton Garland)

Thanks to God's grace we are free to celebrate love. We are free to enjoy His goodness and all the hope, laughter, and confetti that comes with such an anti-shackled truth.

In 2021, it can be hard to celebrate. Every time we open our phones, turn on the tv, tune into the radio, it's all viruses, violence, and very bad things. Not much to rejoice in, huh? Yet, that's the pinnacle of the Christian faith, having something to revel in even when we are surrounded by a pile of ash.

If we think not, perhaps we should look at Job, a man who lost everything and still stood firm on the reality that God is good. Life is good. Hope triumphs and for that, we should press forward.

So how do we press forward in joy, despite hardships? Let's walk through Psalm 37 and check out two biblical tips on how to celebrate the good things in life:

1. Do Good Where You Are. Stay Plugged In.

"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture." (Psalm 37:3)

Before we can find delight in the Lord, we must trust Him. We must hang on His every word, blindly follow Him into the woods, believing He will lead us out of the woods too. The most practical way to trust Him is to obey His basic command to love others. Simply put: Do good. Give when it's hard. Stay plugged into the land where He has placed you, the people He has provided you, and choose to do good. You will find joy in the safety He provides.

However, God's safety is not always safe. We are safe in our eternal destination, meanwhile, God can call us to do the wildest, most outlandish things, the type of "hands and feet" missions that are anything but safe. They can be dangerous, drastic, adventurous, and soul filling. God has a knack for nudging us toward the harder things. Our joy comes from pushing through as we trade fear for the pure fun that comes when God calls us to step outside our comfort zones and explore what He has for us.

2. Choose to Seek goodness amidst Tragedies.

"The blameless spend their days under the Lord's care, and their inheritance will endure forever. In times of disaster, they will not wither; in days of famine, they will enjoy plenty." (Psalm 37:18-19) This is where our boy Job comes in.

Thanks to his testimony, we are without excuse to see God's goodness even in the hardest times. These verses remind us we should not count out disaster. In fact, they emphasize that as Christians we will endure disasters, but we will not wither. That is the big, booming, God-glorifying difference.

We survive, but we don't come out on the other side starved, mangled, or gasping for air. Instead, we see disaster, even famine, as a season in which we have plenty. Our well never runs dry. Our stock barn never loses its reserves. Not that we don't physically, emotionally, and spiritually feel the weight of life's worst, but we are anchored in the assurance that we will never be without what matters most.

Sure, we might be without the paycheck we were banking on, the memories we were supposed to make with someone that up and left, but we are never without God, the God who makes His presence known, the God who doesn't shy away from our tears and anger, the God who doesn't mind quietly writing love notes on our hearts.

When the God of everything is standing in the middle of our nothing, we find goodness amidst the worst tragedies. We find that life's hardest hits won't leave us flat on our backs. For that, we stand sure, we stand proud, we stand knowing that we will truly enjoy plenty.

The good things in life often require a fresh perspective, a willingness to lay down expectations for opportunities.

Perhaps it's time for us to accept we are right where God wants us to be, but to reap the joys of the season, we must get active in investing in others. Maybe life sucks right now, plain, and simple, but now, more than ever, we must be willing to step back and call out the good things for all they are worth—this is our very lifeline to God.

Like Job says in the opening chapter of his story, *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"* (Job1:21).

By Him, through Him, for Him, considering who He is, joy is forever ours!

LWML MEETING DATE!!! – SUNDAY, September 12th.

- Meeting time **12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall**, right after the Church service.

LWML PROJECT UPDATES

- Craft Fair - November 6th – 9 am to 3 pm.
 - If you would like a space, contact Pat Green at imktzmom@sbcglobal.net.
 - If you have crafts or baked goods for the LWML craft fair booth, contact Carole Wilson at thewilsons1976@gmail.com.

THURSDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Bible study at Terri Denton's home, 521 Walnut Avenue THURSDAY evenings at 7:00pm.
- Come at 6:30 for a **"Bend-and-Stretch"** session!! Please join us!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE – If you have an idea for a mission project, please come to one of the LWML meetings. Praise God daily and encourage a fellow sister in Christ through the spoken word, cards, emails, and prayers!



Carole Wilson – LWML President