

Living and...



By Dr. Steve McVey

LOVING It!

Jesus Christ said that the primary reason He came into this world was so that we might experience life to the fullest. He said in John 10:10, "I have come so that you might have life and have it more abundantly." How can we truly love life when circumstances so often threaten to rob us of our joy in life? Joy in life can be experienced by applying three important principles to our daily living:

We must recognize the difference between joy and happiness.

The root of the word "happy" comes from the old English word,

"hap," which refers to outward circum-stances. We experience happiness when things *happen* the way we want. Happiness depends on the events that occur in our lives. On the other hand, joy doesn't depend on the events of life. Joy is an internal sense of peace and contentment which comes through one's relationship to Jesus Christ. His last prayer was that His joy might remain in the lives of those who know Him. (See John 17:13) Ask Jesus Christ to give you the joy the comes by a relationship with Him. Happiness is volatile and often short-lived. Joy is eternally grounded in Christ.

We must trust God in every

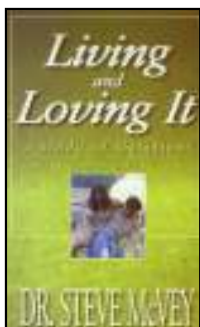
circumstance of our lives.

In order to love life, it is necessary that a person be convinced that God is in control of his life. The events of our lives don't happen by accident, but are guided by a loving God who always works through circumstances for our greatest good and for His own glory. (See Romans 8:28) You can only relax and enjoy life when you know that "it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Your life is on a course set by God Himself and He will accomplish the

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To learn more...

The principles in this fact sheet are excerpted from Steve McVey's audio series, *Living and Loving It*



One of the greatest threats to the church has been legalism. Christians living under law face a daily struggle in trying to live up to the rules. They believe that God's blessings depend on how well they perform. The New Testament gospel of grace teaches that God blesses His children because we are in Jesus Christ and for no other reason at all!

Grace is God's way of motivating the

believer to *want to live* a godly lifestyle!

This series of messages presents practical teaching from the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the church of Galatia reveals how we can discover freedom from exhausting rules and learn how to be motivated by a love for Christ. Listen to these messages and soon you too will be "living and loving it!"

Some of the topics include:

- ◆ This is the life!
- ◆ The party poopers
- ◆ Losing Your Religion
- ◆ The Grace Burglars
- ◆ The Day I Died
- ◆ Your Cheatin' Heart



the plan he has for you in every situation you will ever face. (See Daniel 4:35)

We must allow Jesus Christ to express His life through us.

The Christian life isn't a lifestyle in which we seek to imitate Christ, but is one in which Jesus lives His life through us daily. Christianity isn't about living by religious rules. It is a lifestyle in which we know that He is our life, then we simply rest in Him and trust Him to express Himself through us. Christ gave His life *for* us so that He could give His life *to* us and then express His life *through* us. We can love life because He *is* our life and "in Him we live and move and exist" (Acts 17:28).

If your lifestyle seems to drain you more than it energizes you, perhaps you have

fallen victim to religious legalism. Jesus Christ came to offer rest to those who follow Him. (See Matthew 11:28) Religious legalism is demanding and tiresome. Will you turn to Him in faith right now and trust that Christ will express Himself to you and then through you to others? If that expresses your desire, perhaps it would be helpful to pray a prayer like the following prayer.

Dear God,

I do want to love life and I know that it is only by trusting You to give your life to me and then live through me that I will know the abundant life you promised. May Your life be mine and may I learn each day how to trust You to be who you are in me and to do what you have promised. I trust you now. Thank you for your promises.



Hi, I'm Steve McVey, President of Grace Walk Ministries, and we are thrilled that you have let us send you these proven, biblical principles that will help you understand how to live an abundant Christian life.

Grace Walk is a teaching and training ministry which exists for the purpose of sharing the life of Jesus Christ with others. Our mission is to help Christians discover the freedom of their new life in Christ. To this end, we use conferences, mission trips, Bible studies, books, newsletters, audio and video tapes, television, radio and the world wide web.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity to serve you. There's lots more in store at our web site. Be sure to visit us there at www.gracewalk.org. We hope you'll drop by for a visit and that you'll tell a friend about us.

In Him, *Steve*



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