

Riches Beyond Wealth

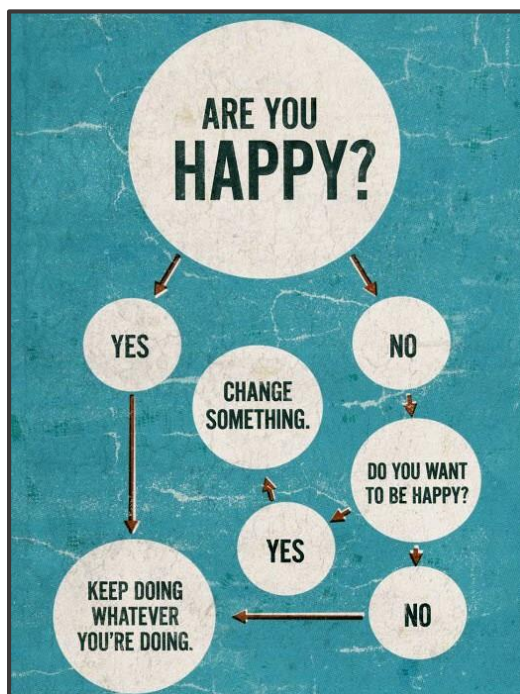
All of us have a desire to be happy, but what constitutes happiness? How is it achieved?

Evangelist Billy Graham, in his book *Just As I Am*, tells a story that helps answer those questions.

Graham and his wife, Ruth, were on an island in the Caribbean when one of the wealthiest men in the world asked them to come to his lavish home for lunch.

He was 75 years old, and throughout the entire meal he seemed close to tears.

“I am the most miserable man in the world,” he told the Grahams. “Out there is my yacht. I can go anywhere I want to. I have my private plane, my helicopters. I have everything I want to make my life happy; yet I am as miserable as hell.”



Graham said he and Ruth “prayed with him, trying to point him to Christ, who alone gives lasting meaning to life.”

Later that afternoon, the Grahams met with the pastor of the local Baptist church. He, too, was 75, a widower who spent most of his time taking care of his two invalid sisters. Graham described him as being full of enthusiasm and love for Christ and others.

“I don’t have two pounds to my name,” he said with a smile, “but I am the happiest man on this island.”

Billy asked Ruth after they left, “Who do you think is the richer man?”

She didn’t have to reply, because they both already knew the answer.

Happiness, then, is not determined by wealth or fame, but by character, grounded in faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (Psalm 34:8 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter