



God's Pleasure in Me

For it is God which worketh in us both
to will and to do of His good pleasure.
Philippians 2:13

God takes pleasure in His children. He delights in us. I believe it because the Bible says so. Proof of God's love is everywhere.

You know how children are so precious to their parents. I love and delight in the offspring God has given to us. When the children were small, I enjoyed saying, "I like you the best of all the eight-year-olds in the whole wide world! You are my favorite twelve-year-old!" I thought that was a nice way to make a child feel special, yet they couldn't crow that I loved them more than the others!

I remember the pleasure I felt when I held a precious innocent newborn. How fun it was to watch our children learn to crawl, walk, talk, and so many other interesting things. What pleasure we had in seeing our children learn verses, songs, and poems so quickly! The mind of a child is amazing, fresh, and often more intelligent than we realize.

There were also many times I was not pleased with my children, when they spoke unkindly, were rude, and grumbled. I remember small sons quarreling madly in the sandbox. Mothers need to work with all these things.

The greatest joy and pleasure is when our children seek the Lord and walk in His ways. I feel so blessed when our children work in His kingdom. I am happy when I see my youngest son willingly help his daddy. My cup overflows with joy when we all sing together. Of course I take pleasure in the children God has given us!

That is how God sees us. We are His children, loved, precious, and special. Zephaniah 3:17 says, "God will rejoice

over thee with joy... He will joy over thee with singing.” That is just amazing and blesses my heart. I am loved; we are loved! We are God's beloved!

In my daily Bible reading, I am working at slowing down and meditating more on the Word of God. These verses about God's pleasure in me touched my heart this morning.


“The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him” (Psalm 147:11).

“The Lord taketh pleasure in His people” (Psalm 149:4).

The Hebrew definition for pleasure is to be pleased with, satisfy, approve, delight, enjoy, like, observe, and pardon.

God takes pleasure in His children. He takes pleasure in me. He watches over me, loves me—and most of all, I long for Him to be pleased with me.

read Revelation 4



God will
rejoice over thee
with joy.

What Is Acceptable?

Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.
2 Corinthians 5:9

Every true child of God has a deep heart longing, an intense desire to live in a way that is acceptable and well-pleasing to his Father.

On a hot humid afternoon in El Salvador we were visiting a native brother. In the course of conversation, I thanked the man for his kindness. “*Usted es amable.*” It puzzled me when the man seemed embarrassed and said, “No, no.”

Later I discovered that the Spanish meaning of *amable* is handsome—hardly an acceptable thing to say to a man! I had meant to say, “You are kind.”

Of greatest importance is the question: Just what is acceptable and pleasing to God? I found it very interesting to search the Scriptures for verses that have the words acceptable and well-pleasing in them.

Just what is acceptable and pleasing to God?

1. **Acceptable Lives.** Romans 12:1-2 – “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service...be not conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.” Being yielded to Him is acceptable and pleasing to my Father.
2. **Acceptable Speech.** Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.” God hears each and every one of my words. “Help my tongue, Lord.”

3. **Acceptable Prayers and Lifestyle.** 1 Timothy 2:1-3 – “Pray and give thanks, for kings and for all that are in authority. Lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God and our Savior.”
4. **Caring for Your Own.** 1 Timothy 5:4 – “If any have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents, for that is good and acceptable before God.”

Requite in the Greek means to give back, repay, restore.

Acceptable: to be well-pleased with, to have delight, desire, favor, and good pleasure.

Piety: to be pious toward God in worship. Piety toward parents is to show respect.

I studied this while I was adjusting to having my mother in our house. This verse is saying that it is good and acceptable to God to care for aging parents. I needed these words.

The *NIV* says that children or grandchildren should learn first of all to put their religion to practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

read 1 Timothy 5:1–15



*Acceptable is to
be well-pleased with.*



Pray in Faith

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. James 1:6

Sometimes I think I pray with very little faith. I have been praying for over two months that God would give me an opportunity to influence two teenage boys from a family in my church. They are kind of like the outcasts within our church. Not popular. Just different.

Well, I certainly didn't know how I would ever get an opportunity. But then earlier this week, the younger of the two hurt his hand. He was making a gun, forgot he put a shell shot in it, was welding and working with it, and yes, it blew up in his hand. So he had to have surgery.

I got an idea, but really it was God who impressed on my mind that I should go over there. I took bars and bread and jam and some books and my small son and I went to see how he was.

I think he really enjoyed showing us the bird shot that had gone into his hand, and talking about it; he soaked in the attention.

He wanted to hold my little boy—scary because he can only use one hand right now, but I knew it was important to let him. Anyhow, we had a very nice time there. We were able to show love. My husband had encouraged me to go.

And sometimes when you get an idea like that, you need to act on it before you lose heart. So this is an example of how God answered my prayer when I had no idea that / how He would answer.

A godly young lady shared this story with me. I was challenged and encouraged by her example.

How does God want us to relate to people with obvious struggles?

I appreciate the example of my friend Lill who is serving God in missions in El Salvador for many years. She says, “My

passion is to live close to God's heart and to constantly listen to His nudges. My daily question for God is, 'What do you want to see happen today, Lord?' ”

Can we with the help of God be more careful to reach out to those who truly need friends and encouragement for Jesus' sake? God's children should have hearts of love and care. God cares about every needy soul. Do we?

read 1 Peter 3:8-12



Pray in faith.



Alive to God

Consider yourself to be dead to sin, and alive to God. Romans 6:11

I become amazed when I look up an ordinary word in the dictionary and gain fresh, new insights.

To be dead is to be dull, inactive, without vitality and spirit, deprived of life, no longer functioning or productive, whereas the definition for alive includes:

- full of life, lively, vibrant
- alert, sensitive, aware of
- look alive
- pay attention
- move quickly

Thinking about my relationship with my husband helped me to understand better how to be more alive in my relationship with God.

I thought back to our September wedding day. Of course, I was quite alive to Mark on that day. Now, many years later, how am I doing?

A good marriage takes a lot of determination and effort.

Alive to my husband includes:

- communication, taking time to share our hearts
- being alert and sensitive to his needs
- willingness to serve him
- awareness of him
- a desire to please him
- satisfying him physically

I believe that having a close relationship with my Maker takes a lot of diligence, determination, and effort, as well. To be alive to God I need to:

- love to talk with Him and listen daily
- be alert and sensitive to hear His voice
- have a willingness to do whatever He asks
- an awareness of His presence
- desire to obey His Word and seek His approval
- trust Him, and be content

Romans 7:4b (TLB) says, “Now you are ‘married’ (so to speak) to the one who rose from the dead, so that you can produce good fruit; that is good deeds for God.”

Marriage to Christ equals a life of dependency on Him. Duty to Him. Fruitfulness with Him. It is a life of fulfillment and joy.

Living for God is truly a life worth living, for Christ is my life, my all in all. Philippians 1:21 says, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

read Galatians 2:19–20 and Colossians 1:14–17

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