Does God Want us to be Happy?

A popular concept found in many Christian books says:





This reduces the God of the universe to a cosmic Santa Claus. We say a little prayer to inform Him what's on our list, then if what we asked for doesn't appear under the tree, we can blame Him, because He's failed to make us happy.

In fact, there are two things that the Bible says God wants from us: First, God wants us to accept His Son as our Savior: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Philippians 2:9-11)



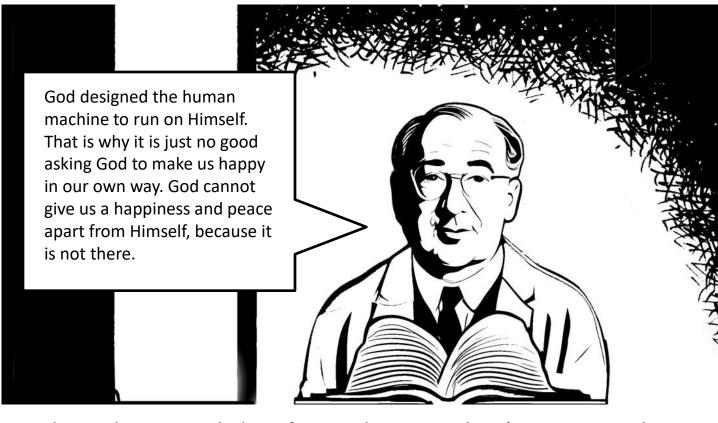




On the other hand, Jesus' first recorded sermon is all about happiness! In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lists nine things that will make His followers *makarios*, which appears over 50 times in the New Testament and is often translated as "happy" or "blissful."

However, Jesus' definition of happiness is different from ours. It's not an elusive emotion or grounded in physical and material things.

In his book, Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis observed that it's futile to seek happiness apart from God:



So does God want you to be happy? Yes, He does. But He doesn't want you to seek fleeting happiness on your own.



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