



INTRODUCTION

We're starting a new series that explores distorted half-truths about God that land a lot of people in the ditch of resentment and regret. This week Pastor John discusses the half-truths about happiness and success as it relates to God. When people say the half-truth "God just wants me to be happy," oftentimes it's a code word for excusing sinful behavior and ties happiness to circumstances. Another half-truth related to this one is success is God's blessing and failure is God's cursing. Success or failure isn't the issue. Faithfulness is our part, results are God's part. So who is God, really? He wants you happy *in Him* and focused on *faithfulness* instead of results.

DISCUSSION

1. Write down your definition of "happiness." Then read **2 Corinthians 7:8-9**. Paul is "happy" because the Corinthians have repented and turned back to God. How does this example of "happiness" compare to your definition?
2. Now write down what you consider one major success in the past year and one major failure. Read **Romans 8:31-39**. How would God view your success and failure? How are we "more than conquerors"?
3. God calls us to be faithful. Read **Hebrews 11** and discuss what godly faithfulness would look like in our society.

THINK ABOUT IT

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." Don't lose sight of our real mission, which is to build Christ's Kingdom. Our happiness should not be "tossed" around by the daily political statements and the newest agenda or cause but be "anchored" in the daily Word of God. If we look to the world for our happiness and success, we will always be moving, swirling, maybe in a spin we just can't seem to get out of. But, if we anchor our souls in Jesus, the Faithful One, if we pick up the Word before we pick up the daily "tweet," then "speaking the truth in love, we will grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." [**Ephesians 4:14-15**]

DO SOMETHING

1. Take time to pray this week about these half-truths. Was there a time in your life when you believed them? Do you still struggle with one or both of them? Seek out godly counsel to help you through these struggles.
2. Help someone in your circle who is struggling with one of half-truths in the message. Pray about how to approach them and take a first step in connecting with them.
3. Begin to pray about who you will invite to the upcoming Easter services.