

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 12 – 2: Happiness (快乐) versus Joy (喜乐)

Many people think that when they become rich and successful (成功), happiness will naturally follow. Let me tell you that nothing is further from the truth. The world is full of very rich people who are as miserable (痛苦) as if they were living in hell (地狱). We have read stories about movie stars who committed suicide (自杀) or died from drugs (毒品). Take two very rich and famous people for example: the 1952 Nobel Prize (诺贝尔) literature (文学) winner Ernest Hemingway and Kodak Company founder George Eastman. They could not find the real meaning of their lives and had no joy in living. They both committed suicide to end their unhappy lives.

Happiness can come from many sources: buying a bigger house or a new car; getting a big promotion (升级); meeting a wonderful friend; getting admission to a famous school; having a big bank account, etc. These things may create a surge (急升) of happiness; it is fleeting (飞逝的) and is nothing when compared with an inner sense of long lasting (持久) joy which is not based upon an accumulation (积累) of things or achievements (成就). If you depend on external things of life to make you happy, you will always feel unfulfilled. Because there will always be something missing or something more for you to pursue. There is an old saying that “the entire world can not fill up a man’s heart.” Therefore, happiness is not a legitimate (合理) goal for human pursuit (追求).

There is a distinct difference between joy and happiness. Joy is defined as a contentment (满足) and delight (喜爱) in God that is not based on circumstances (环境) or material things.

Above all, remember this: true joy comes from living in contentment with yourself. Therefore, joy comes from a pure heart (单纯的心), good conscience (无愧的良心), and a sincere faith (真诚的信心). Joy means the perfect fulfillment

(满延) of that for which I was created (创造) and regenerated (新生). Joy is from God who created us. It is based on the truth of God’s word (圣经) and His character (美德). It is for the glory (荣耀) of God. We can turn joy into a neat little acronym: Jesus first, others second, yourself last. The secret of joy is to put other’s needs before ourselves. Jesus is an example of putting the need of our world before his own desire, he sacrificed (牺牲) himself on the cross to save (拯救) us.

2. Discussions:

1. Can you tell the difference between happiness and joy?
2. Is being rich and famous still the goal you pursue?
3. In your own life so far, have you been pursuing happiness or joy?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 477. Who ever comes will be welcomed. | 来的人都欢迎。 |
| 478. You look as if you didn't care. | 你好像满不在乎。 |
| 479. You should look at it yourself. | 你应该亲自看看它。 |
| 480. Draw your chair up to the table. | 把你的椅子拉到桌旁边来。 |
| 481. He covered himself with a quilt | 给自己盖上一条被。 |
| 482. He found my lecture interesting. | 他觉得我讲课有趣。 |
| 483. He had a good many friends here. | 他在此有很多朋友。 |

4. Let us sing a song of praise during this joyful Christmas Season:

Joy to the World! The Lord is coming; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The saviour reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy