

Joy is the Purpose of Our Lives

Matt and Marianne Goldberg
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Sometimes, as religious people, we tend to forget the fact that the purpose of life is joy.

Yes, dear brothers and sisters, you read it correctly. The purpose of our lives is to experience joy. If you don't believe me, take a look at page 326 of True Father's autobiography, "**As a Peace Loving Global Citizen**":

"When we meet someone new, we are always curious about who he or she is. God has the same curiosity about each human being. He is especially curious about young people, and it brings Him great joy when He gets to know them intimately. Why is this? It is because our youth is the most important and most beautiful period of our lives. This period should be a time of tranquility as one prepares for the future. The process of growing to maturity is a building block that opens the way to a new era. "

Even God is looking to experience joy.

Perhaps this sounds idealistic. Speaking out of my own experience, my youth was certainly not always filled with tranquility. It was, in fact, rather stormy. However, I did have the good fortune to be born and raised in a country whose guiding philosophy affirms that all men (and women) are created with equal value in the eyes of God. Do these words seem familiar to you? "*We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. " Among these are the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*" This partial quote is taken from the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America.

So, we have very good reasons to believe the purpose of our lives is to experience joy as well as to seek happiness. True Father goes on to point out that God created us to be great people and that our most important foundation in life is established when we discover our own gifts and greatness, making them real and substantial in our lives.

This makes for a very strong values statement, would you agree?

But, why is it that life sometimes seems so tumultuous? Some days the whole world seems to be turned upside down, right?

Well, that is another topic for another day, but I will give you a few hints; you can find some clues by studying the Divine Principle, sharing your thoughts with a small group, or even starting a reading club to share Father's autobiography or some other deeply meaningful book. Soon there will be a new printing of the autobiography.

We all need to find at least three spiritual children. Next we want to share the truthful and joyful way of life with them and expand to twelve and then seventy two disciples. Our short term goal is to bring at least three couples to the Blessing of Marriage by February of 2013. We are challenged to restore our tribe, as Tribal Messiahs. And we have permission to experience joy while doing all these things. How wonderful!

This week, please go for a walk in nature. Father often speaks of the natural world of creation as, “God’s museum”. The changing colors of the leaves taking place this season, just outside your door, right this very minute, is another of God’s amazing miracles. All of Creation is shouting out to us, *“I love you! Be happy! Enjoy this beauty which I am unfolding just for you!”*

Please be well, and live for joy.

And check out this beautiful picture below:



We hope to see you and your friends on Sunday.

God bless you real good ‘till then.

Pastor Matt and Marianne Goldberg