



*Simply
Enjoy
God*

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Introduction

God meant for His children to love Him and simply enjoy being with Him. But if Christians aren't careful, they can make their relationship with God complicated, hectic and burdensome.

This booklet seeks to help Christians to love God more truly and to enjoy relating to Him more simply.

Scripture Versions Used

The Amplified Bible (TAB)
New International Version (NIV)
New King James (NKJ)
New Living Translation (NLT)
The Message (TM)

Seek God First

Giving God first priority in our time, energy, resources and love, will keep our life from getting frustrating and out of control. When we seek God first, we will discover that He enables us to simply accomplish all other things that really need to be done.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJ)

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalms 5:3 (TAB)

In the morning you hear my voice, O Lord; in the morning I prepare a prayer, a sacrifice for You, and watch and wait for You to speak to my heart.

Psalms 27:4 (NKJ)

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

Matthew 22:37, 38 (NLT)

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

Loving Obedience

Loving God is not necessarily the same as loving church, Bible studies, fellowship, Christian service and activities. While all those are good, we don't really love God, unless we are obeying His Word.

I John 2:5a (NLT)

Those who obey God's word really do love him.

Matthew 7:21 (NLT)

Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.

Revelation 2:3, 4 (NKJ)

You have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

II John 6 (NIV)

This is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

Learning to Love

The Christian life is all about loving God and loving people. Love is not so much a feeling to be felt, but an action to be learned. Believers learn how to love by watching how God loves, and then following His example, using the love He poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5b (NIV)

God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Ephesians 5:1...2 (TM)

Watch what God does, and then you do it. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

I John 3:18, 19a (NLT)

Let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth.

The Joy of His Presence

God desires to spend quality time with us alone. He waits for us to shut the door to our noisy thoughts and activities, and simply sit still and enjoy His presence. When we quiet our heart in His presence, we can discern what He is saying to us.

Psalm 16:11 (NKJ)

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 46:10a (NIV)

Be still, and know that I am God.

1 Peter 3:4 (NLT)

You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

Psalm 37:7a (TAB)

Be still and rest in the Lord; wait for Him, and patiently stay yourself upon Him.

Matthew 6:6a (NLT)

When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly.

A Fruitful Branch

A Christian is like a branch that depends on the vine for life and sustenance. Jesus is the Vine. All a branch needs to do is to simply remain in the vine. Then, the living power of the vine flows into it, and it automatically, effortlessly produces fruit.

John 15:4, 5a (NLT)

Jesus said: Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.

John 15:7, 10 (NLT)

If you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love.

John 17:21 (NLT)

My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father--that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.

Joyful Appreciation

Everyone wants to be appreciated and thanked for what they do. So does God. When we praise and thank Him for His daily provisions and gifts to us, we bless and honor Him. He loves to surprise His children with miracles--especially to those who respond with joyful appreciation.

James 1:17 (NIV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Psalm 50:23a (TAB)

He who brings an offering of praise and thanksgiving honors and glorifies Me.

Psalm 100:4b, 5 (NLT)

Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

I Thessalonians 5:16, 18 (NLT)

Always be joyful. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Fulfilling Your Purpose

Christians who don't trust God to guide them with His Word, will miss God's wonderful plans for their life. But those who obey God's Word and delight themselves in Him, will discover their God-given talents and realize the fulfilling purpose for which they were created.

Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Proverbs 4:12, 13 (NLT)

If you live a life guided by wisdom, you won't limp or stumble as you run. Carry out my instructions; don't forsake them. Guard them, for they will lead you to a fulfilled life.

Proverbs 3:5,6 (NLT)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

Be God's Faithful Friend

The most miserable, confused Christians are those who love the ways and things of this sinful world, more than they love God. Instead of living for God and eternity, they live for the self-centered lusts of this temporal world. They are unfaithful to Jesus who died to free us from the bondages of this evil world.

James 4:4 (NIV)

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you.

For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world.

And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.

Prayers on the Go

God never meant for our prayer life to be complicated and burdensome. Christians have the privilege of partnering with the Holy Spirit to pray for the people God brings across our daily paths. We can "pray on the go" and watch God accomplish great and mighty things for His glory, through our obedience to pray.

James 5:16b (NLT)

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJ)

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

Becoming Like Jesus

Everything that happens to us is by God's divine providence for the purpose of making us like Jesus. God often uses troubles to give us opportunities to keep trusting in Him, as He develops in us the character of His beautiful Son.

Hebrews 12:1b, 2a (NLT)

Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish.

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

Whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.

Romans 8:28, 29a (NLT)

We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son.

A Shining Witness

The divine spiritual light of Jesus lives in every believer's heart. When we surrender control of our life to him, he will live and speak and shine through us. But if we live selfishly in sin, his light is blocked from shining out to others.

Ephesians 5:8, 9 (NLT)

For though your hearts were once full of darkness, now you are full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

II Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

This precious treasure--this light and power that now shines within us--is held in perishable containers, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.

Matthew 5:14a (NIV)

You are the light of the world.

Philippians 2:15b (NLT)

You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them.

Encouraging Words

In this world of lying, cursing, and slander, God calls Christians to speak His life-giving words of truth, love, blessings, kindness and encouragement to others.

John 12:49, 50 (NIV)

I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

Ephesians 4:29b (NLT)

Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Proverbs 16:24 (NLT)

Kind words are like honey--sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

1 Peter 3:10b (NLT)

If you want a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and keep your lips from telling lies.

Psalms 141:3 (NIV)

Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

Living Care-free

God commands Christians not to be anxious and worried about tomorrow. He walks with us one day at a time and promises that He will be with us in all our tomorrows to help us when we need Him.

Matthew 6:34b (TM)

Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.

Psalms 46:1, 2a (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.

Matthew 6:30a (NLT)

If God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you?

Psalms 118:24 (NIV)

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Writings by Patsy Oda

Heart's Desire *autobiography*

also in e-Book

Christianity Pure and Simple

Atheism: A World without God

God's Eternal Family Reunion

Out of the Darkness, Into the Light

Differences Between Buddhism & Christianity

Life and Death -- According to Buddha and Jesus

What Time is It?

Heaven is Free

With or Without GOD

Coming to God

Miracles for You

Flying with God

Growing Through Prayer

What Did God Say?

Resting in God

Simply Enjoy God

About the Author

Patsy Oda invited Jesus Christ into her heart as Savior when she was eight years old. Miraculously, she became aware of God as her Heavenly Father and heaven as her eternal home.

But the religion of her Japanese ancestry, culture and family was Buddhism, which does not believe in God or in Heaven. Her family could not understand the invisible reality in her heart. But she could not deny the God who had become so real and precious to her.

Opposition to her faith challenged her to examine both Buddhism and Christianity for over 50 years. Part of God's plan and purpose for her life was to write what she learned about the eternal differences between Buddhism and Christianity. Her autobiography *Heart's Desire* tells about her life with God.