



The Oil of Gladness Preston Morrison

Focus Gladness is the guaranteed result of knowing God is pleased. The enemy tries to get people to believe God is angry, but the truth is God's natural disposition is pleasure, not displeasure. The absence of gladness in the life of a believer is evidence something is off in the life of that believer. God pours out the oil of joy in our lives when we seek to please Him, hate wickedness, and love righteousness.

Fun What is the most amazing thing you've seen in nature?

Review Key Scriptures: Matthew 25:1–13; Zephaniah 3:17; Psalm 5:4

1. Please God.

Gladness is the guaranteed result of knowing God is pleased. The enemy tries to get people to believe God is angry, but the truth is God's natural disposition is pleasure, not displeasure. It is not difficult to please God because He put the desire to please Him inside the heart of every one of His children. Philippians 2 affirms God is working in our hearts, giving us the desire and power to do what pleases Him. When we please God, we receive His oil of gladness.

2. Hate wickedness.

Amos 5:15 says, "hate evil." We should not tolerate evil. What you're tempted by this week is the result of what you tolerated too much last month. Isaiah 59:2 states our iniquities have separated us from God. God's desire is to be close to us, and He hates wickedness because of the distance it puts between us and Him.

3. Love righteousness.

Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 5 that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. It is one thing to be made like Jesus, but it is a

completely different thing to look like Him. God wants us to look like Him, and He is righteous. The more you sense the pleasure of God, the more you will see the windows of heaven open and the oil of God's gladness pour over you.

Group Dynamics Idea Ask the members of your group to give you feedback on what especially worked well for them during this past semester. How did they grow? What were some challenges they faced? Take time to thank God and pray for any growth areas.

Discuss

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the word *gladness*?
2. What would it look like if our lives overflowed with the oil of God's gladness?
3. What are ways you can please God with your life?
4. God hates wickedness because it separates us from Him. How can we hate wickedness like God does?
5. What do you love about righteousness? Why do you think God loves righteousness so much?
6. What is one way this message changed or challenged your perspective?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Please God.
- Hate wickedness.
- Love righteousness.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise and honor You. You are a God who delights in us and delights when we take pleasure in You. Our desire is to bring You pleasure in all we do. Help us hate all wickedness and love righteousness. Please make us more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Look at every person in your group as a gift. God has made each one and handcrafted their individual gifts and personalities. Take time to really get to know each person in your group. Ask God to show you how He sees them. Then take time to encourage them, articulate how valuable they are, and let them know you are thankful to have them in your group.