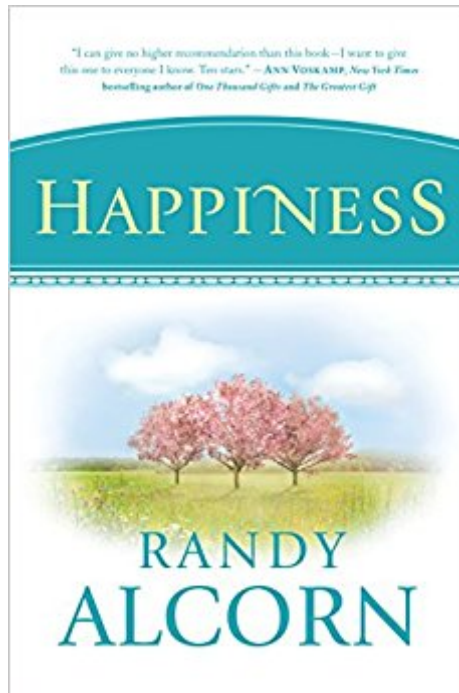




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# Happiness



## Synopsis

2017 ECPA Christian Book Award Finalist (Christian Living category) Christians are supposed to be happy. In fact, we are supposed to radiate joy, peace, and contentment that is so unmistakable and so attractive that others are naturally drawn to us because they want what we have. And yet, in today's culture, the vast majority of Christians are perceived as angry, judgmental people who don't seem to derive any joy from life whatsoever. So why aren't we happy? Unfortunately, many Christians are taught early on that God doesn't want us to be happy (he wants us to be holy). In fact, many Christians are laboring under the false notion that God himself is not happy. But nothing could be further from the truth! God does want us to be happy. The Bible is filled with verses that prove that ours is a happy, joy-filled God who not only loves celebrations but also desperately wants his children to be happy. Why else would He go to the lengths He did to ensure our eternal happiness in His presence? We know that we will experience unimaginable joy and happiness in Heaven, but that doesn't mean we can't also experience joy and happiness here on earth. In *Happiness*, noted theologian Randy Alcorn dispels centuries of misconceptions about happiness and provides indisputable proof that God not only wants us to be happy, He commands it. The most definitive study on the subject of happiness to date, this book is a paradigm-shifting wake-up call for the church and Christians everywhere.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 496 pages

Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.; First Edition edition (October 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1414389345

ISBN-13: 978-1414389349

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.3 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 68 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #128,054 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #123 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Exegesis & Hermeneutics](#) #2258 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Spiritual Growth](#) #2516 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology](#)

## Customer Reviews

Think God doesn't want you to be happy? Think again. While Christians shouldn't deny or

ignore suffering, we should be so energized by contagious joy and radiate such inner happiness, peace, and contentment that others are attracted to what we have in Christ. Yet Christians are often perceived as angry, judgmental, and duty driven. Why aren't we happier? Unfortunately, many believers are taught that God wants us to be holy but not happy and that joy and happiness are fundamentally different. We've even been left with the impression that God himself isn't happy. Yet nothing could be further from the truth! God is happy, and he wants us to be happy too. Why else would Scripture call him "the happy God"? Why else would he call the gospel the "good news of great joy" and go to extraordinary lengths to ensure our eternal happiness? We know we'll experience unimaginable happiness in Heaven and on the New Earth, but that doesn't mean we can't also experience great happiness here and now. Join bestselling author and noted theologian Randy Alcorn as he dispels the modern Christian misconceptions about happiness and provides indisputable biblical proof that God not only wants us to be happy but commands and empowers us to be happy in him! The day has not yet come when God will wipe away every tear from his children's eyes, but rest assured, that day will come. Until then, this definitive work can help change the way you think about joy and happiness. From the inside flap: Get a head start on living happily ever after! Webster's dictionary defines happiness as "wait for it" "the state of being happy." Seems easy enough, right? And yet happiness eludes us. Most of us spend our entire lives trying to be happy, only to come up short time and time again. We think, If only I could find the perfect relationship, lose weight, get a better job, or make more money then I'd be happy! But the truth is, none of these things will ever bring us true, lasting joy and happiness. There is, however, something that can. C. S. Lewis wrote, "If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire. . . . If you want joy, . . . peace, eternal life, you must get close to . . . the thing that has them." Now, in the most definitive work on the topic of happiness to date, Randy Alcorn shows us how we can draw closer to the source of joy, peace, and eternal life, and experience all the happiness God, in his infinite grace, has to offer.

The issue addressed is whether or not God wants us (people) to be happy. I have often heard that God is concerned with my joyfulness, not my happiness. I have also heard that God is concerned with my holiness, not my happiness. The author powerfully makes the case that God IS concerned with my happiness, and that it is OK to want to be happy. I would have given the book five stars if the author had made his point a little more succinctly. He confesses at the outset that he is going hammer his points home, and he certainly does. He should get an "A

Randy Alcorn is a good writer but it takes me so long to read his books. He writes a bit above my intellectual level so I spend lots of time focusing on what he has written. After reading Alcorn's book titled HEAVEN I wanted to try another. HEAVEN was a very in-depth description on what the Bible says about where believers will spend eternity. This book is the same type of writing. Alcorn supports his belief that God wants us to be happy with scriptural references. It's a good book---it just takes me more time to digest his writing.

Good book, helpful and informative. Author gives valid and convincing reasoning for a more Biblical view of the happiness of God and of ourselves. I would recommend this book. The book was long, occasionally repetitive, and the many quotes became tedious and sometimes obscured the points the author was trying to make. Still a good read.

Randy Alcorn has given Christians a tremendous gift in Happiness. The sheer amount of research involved in compiling this tome is highly appreciated. Though the book might be criticized for being unnecessarily long and repetitive in spots, Alcorn makes up for this by providing relatively short, happiness-producing chapters (I found this to be literally true) that serve as top-notch daily devotional material. Plus, Happiness provides help for the Church and the world well through spotlighting an area of Christian doctrine that is dramatically lacking and terribly misunderstood, namely, that "God is happy, and he wants us to be happy too."

I got this book from the local library but decided I wanted my own personal copy. What I had been reading in the book was extremely helpful to me. I haven't read the book from where I left off, but it is something that I plan to do this week. And I do believe that happiness is a trait that God wants Christians to have.

It is a very long book; I think some of the concepts are great, but the point could have been made with less words. I made the mistake of putting it on my kindle. I have yet to finish it.

Excellent book to correct errors in thinking about the word happy and happiness. But more than that, it is just a great encouragement to read. Reading and thinking about our happy God and his intentions for us, now and in eternity, adds to one's happiness. I highly recommend it. If possible, read it together with someone and discuss the contents chapter by chapter - it will be a great blessing to both.

Easy to read. Very relevant to life in the present. Very enjoyable to just relax and read whenever I want to.

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