

HOW TO OBTAIN HAPPINESS AND HEALTH, NO. I

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How to Obtain Happiness and Health, No. I by John J. Snyder

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JOHN J. SNYDER

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GLAD TIDINGS
(NO. 1)

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HOW TO OBTAIN HAPPINESS AND HEALTH

CHAPTER I.

HAPPINESS AND HEALTH.

Happiness is what everyone is seeking for. There is no happiness without health. We write to point out the way to happiness and health, here in this world, and eternal happiness in the world to come; to tell the afflicted how they can be healed by the Lord, and demonstrate for themselves the truth of the teachings contained in this book, which are the teachings of Jesus unfolded or made plain. If you are afflicted, and are an unbeliever in Jesus Christ, if you will believe sufficiently in him to prove him; that is, to commence to do what he says, (what we tell you in this book to do,) he will heal you to prove his power to you, that you may become a steadfast believer and serve him. He will do it, friend—do not doubt it for a moment, because you can demonstrate it for your own self and be healed, as I have said.

In the Scriptures God asks mankind—the unbeliever or the believer who is weak in the faith—to simply prove him; simply “taste and see that the Lord is good;” taste and find out for yourself that God will bless you with happiness, and with health if you are sick, if

you will commence *in humility* to walk in his ways. His ways are ways of happiness, here in this world, and everlasting happiness in the next world. In his way is to be found the only genuine happiness here on this earth. The Scriptures say, "Godliness is profitable unto all things; having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

The teachings of Jesus are that we should be happy, here in this life, and be healed of our diseases by the power of his Spirit, and have eternal happiness in the life that is to come. He began his teachings by promising blessings or happiness, to commence with us right here in this world, saying, "Blessed are the meek."—Blessed are you that do so and so.—"Rejoice and be exceeding glad."—"Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."—"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you."—"And your joy no man taketh from you."

When Jesus was on this earth, the truth of his teachings was confirmed or demonstrated to sincere truth seekers, principally by healing. And before he left the world he told his disciples that when he was gone, he would be with them in spirit, even to the end of the world. He said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world;" so that all sincere truth seekers should know and prove for themselves the truth of his doctrine, and know that he would heal those who were afflicted; heal them of sickness, and heal them of sin.

In those ancient days the disciples understood the truth and lived it, and that is why the truth was *demonstrated* to them. This condition existed among the disciples for about two hundred years, or over one hundred years after the apostles had gone. We find this to be the case from ancient history, which we quote

in another chapter. When healing ceased to exist among the disciples, as did other spiritual gifts, it was when they had drifted away from the truth and had ceased to understand it and live it.

It is prophesied in the Scriptures that they would fall away. It is also prophesied in the Scriptures that in the last days the Lord would set his hand again, the second time, to recover his people. And the truth in its fulness will again be established on the earth and understood, and lived up to. That is to say, the kingdom or church of God will again be established on the earth with the gifts and blessings as in the days of old. This is a day of preparation, and the preparatory work for that time has come. God has his times and seasons to bring forth his special works on the earth. And the way is to be prepared by people being healed of their diseases, and also by other manifestations of the power of God.

When the time comes that the truth is lived up to in its fulness, then God will endow men with the same power and authority that the disciples had in ancient times, when the same great works, as we believe, will be wrought again on the earth.

It is written in the New Testament, "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray."

Prayer is very much misunderstood. We write to make these things plain, and we will make them plain and simple, so that any person who will commence to do God's will, can understand them.

It does not require an education to understand the things of God, nor the study of metaphysical books written by any man. It simply requires humility; a willingness to commence in earnest and do what God wants you to do; then he gives you the understanding. He gives it to you by enlightening your mind so you

can see and understand the Scriptures, which is his guide to humanity, to lead "whosoever will" to happiness, here in this world, and eternal happiness in the world beyond.

A person may be having good health and enjoying the pleasures of sin; that is, walking not in God's way; but that way leads to unhappiness, which will come sooner or later; if not in this world, in the next world, just as the Scriptures say.

The healing that is being done to-day in different religious denominations, is done by the power of God. Healing is a good work, and all good comes from God. The evil one, "that wicked one" (1 John 5:18), never did heal any person. God forbid that we should fail to see and acknowledge all the good that is in the different religions to-day, their healing and other good works. But the churches are greatly lacking, many of them even denying the power of God to heal the sick in this age, and to work miracles; and they love money, and their substances, and their fine apparel, and the adorning of their churches, more than they love the poor and needy, the sick and the afflicted. Pride,—a lack of humility,—the love of the world and of the fine things thereof, following the desires of the flesh, are the sins of the churches to-day. The worship of the great majority of the churches, especially of the larger ones in our cities, is a worship of form, and the Spirit of God is greatly lacking. Of course there are some humble Christians in the churches.

It is recorded in the Scriptures that Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos unto them, "and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." This is what we are claiming to do, to expound the way of God; and we ask you to judge us by our fruits only. People can show their faith only by their works. If we are teach-

ing the truth, unmixed with error, our teachings being built upon Christ's gospel, then will God show forth his good works in us.

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." The signs, healing and other spiritual gifts, are the demonstration, the manifestation of the power of God. Remember what Jesus said, "These signs shall follow *them that believe.*" In other words, those who really believe, these signs shall follow them. Any people who have not the signs, do not believe, although they may think they do. Their faith is a dead faith, not a living faith. "Faith without works is dead."

Besides having the signs, a people must also have the good fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, humility, etc. The signs, and the fruits of the Spirit, are the works or fruits which must follow, and will follow, them that actually believe. And as Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." And it is only *by* their fruits that we *can* know them.

If our good fruits (that is, the fruits of those among us who individually keep the commandments of Christ,) are more abundant than those of other religions, then, of course, one should conclude that we have more light and more truth. It is truth, unmixed with error, that will make us free from the bondage of sin and sickness, and bring us true happiness that is lasting.

Here is what the Lord says in the Scriptures: "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough [in your soul] to receive it;" yes, the blessing of health, in spirit and in body. Simply prove him, try him, and he will heal you, if you are afflicted, to prove his power to you, in order that you may become a firm believer and serve him, as we have said. You receive the bless-