

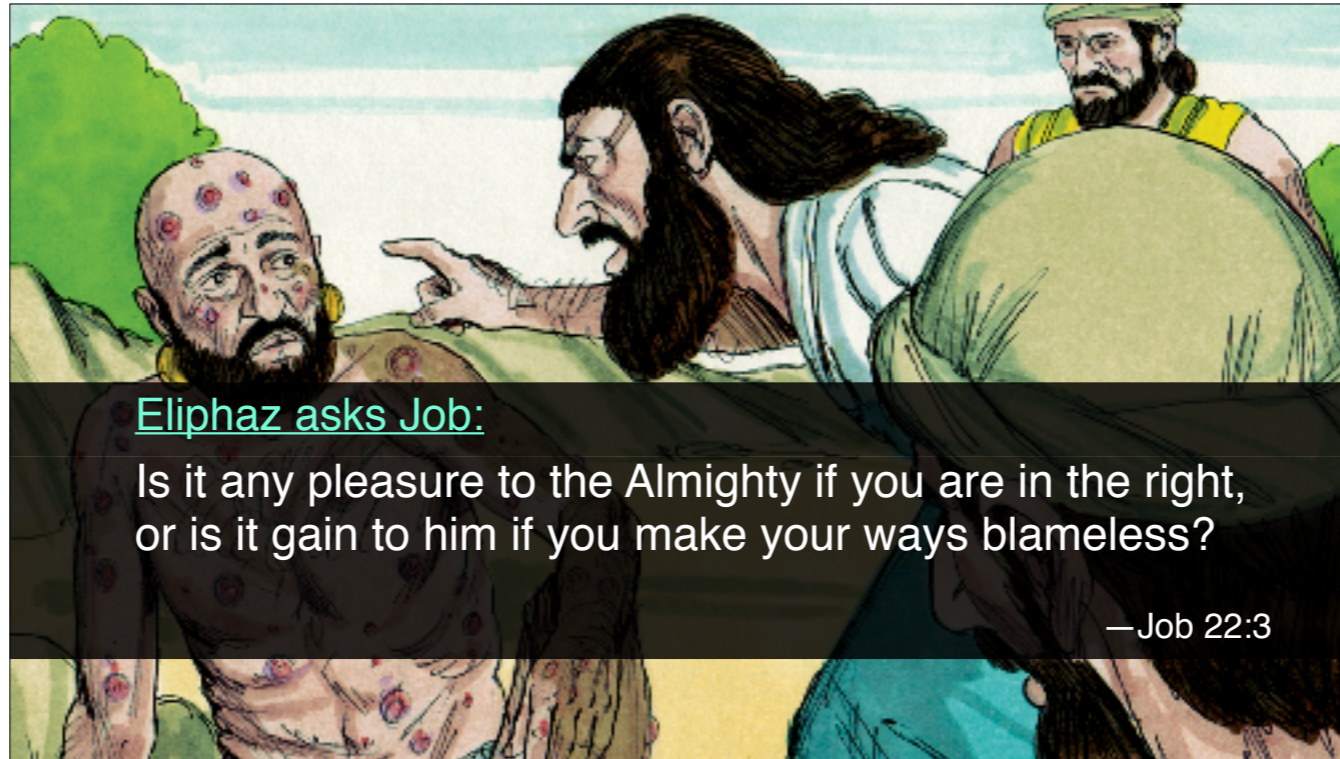


You Can Be Blessed!



Eliphaz asks Job:

- Job argues against the accusations of his friends that he is righteous and thus he stands by his integrity.
- His friends, however, repeatedly accuse him of sin (which is obvious to them because of his circumstances (suffering because of God's judgment against him)).

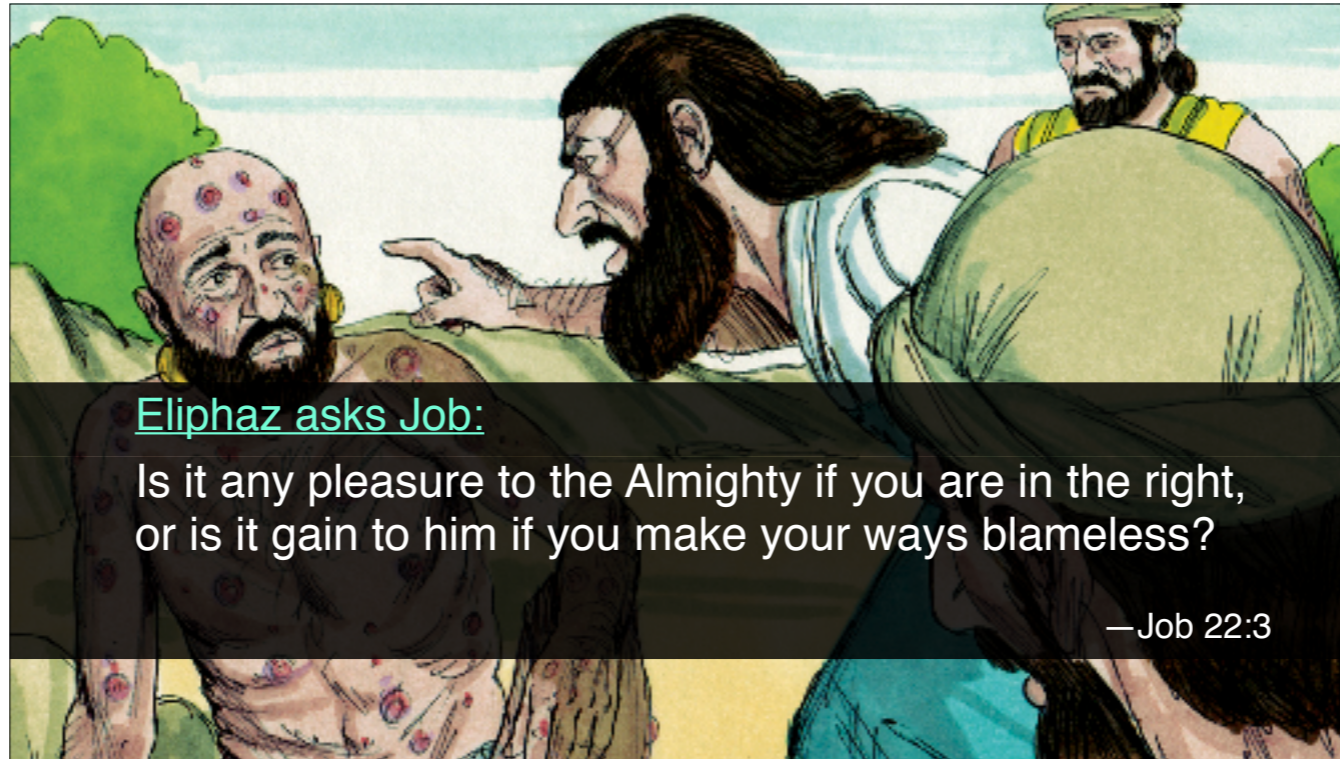


Eliphaz asks Job:

Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right,
or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

—Job 22:3

- Job 22:1-3: Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: “Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?”

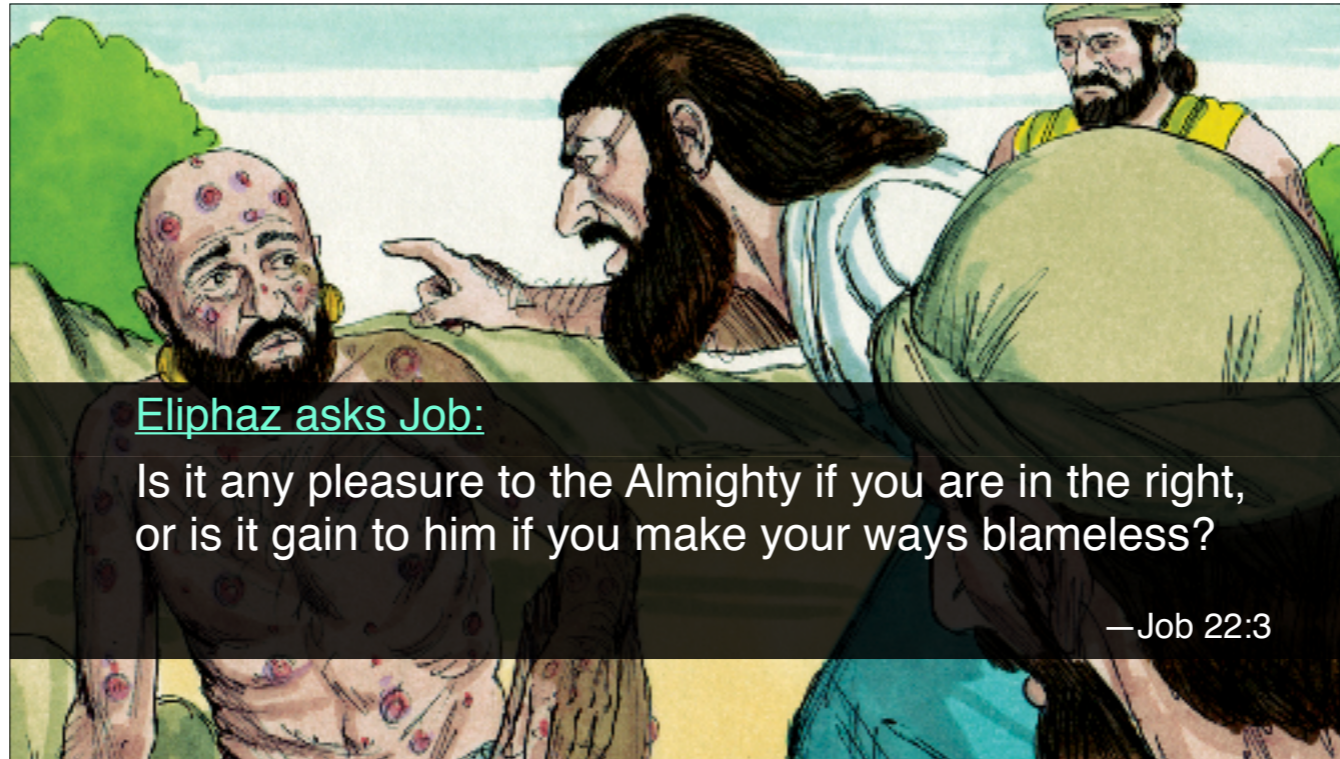


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or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

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- Eliphaz takes this a step further, arguing, essentially, that God doesn't care if Job is righteous.
- This is a slanderous accusation against God. His snarky rhetorical questions are wrong.
- Can a man be profitable to God? Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right?
- The answer to both of these is YES!!!

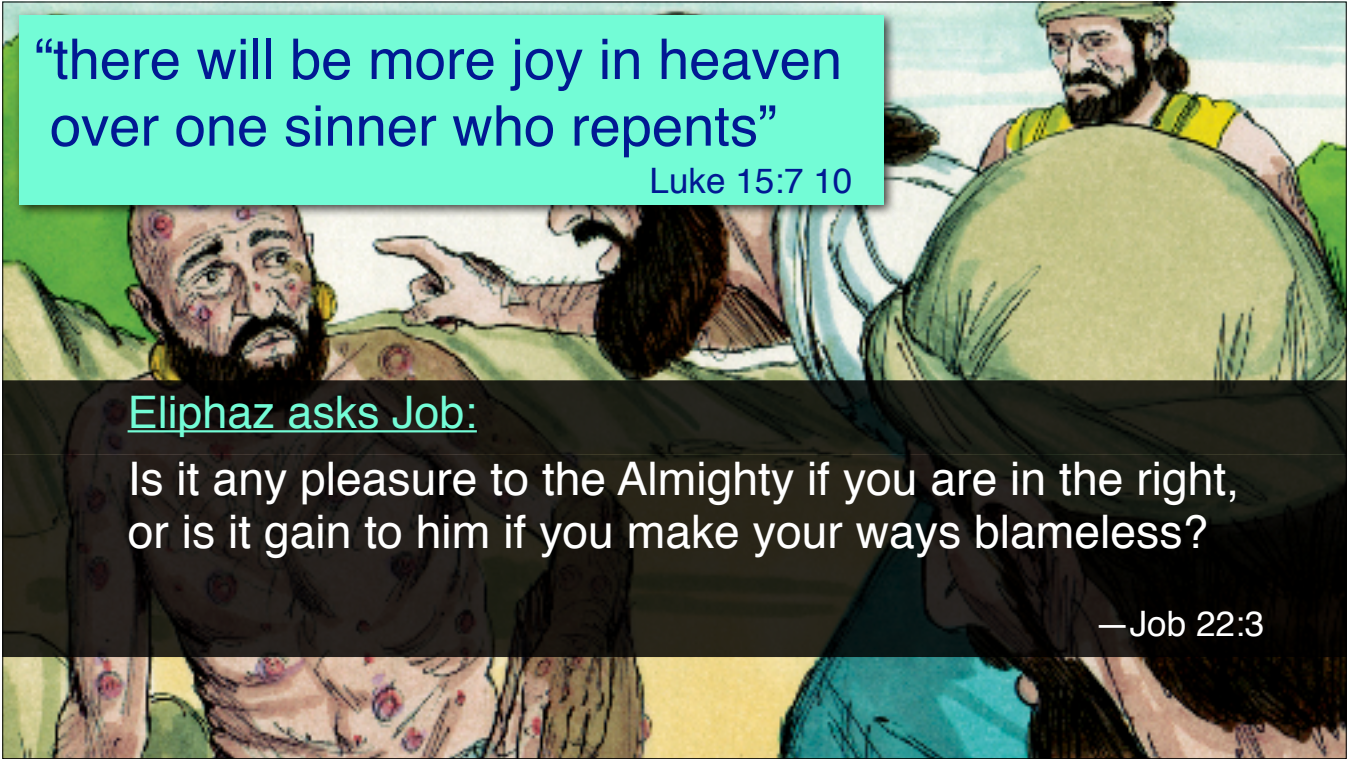


Eliphaz asks Job:

Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right,
or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

—Job 22:3

- Job 1:8: And Jehovah said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”



“there will be more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents”

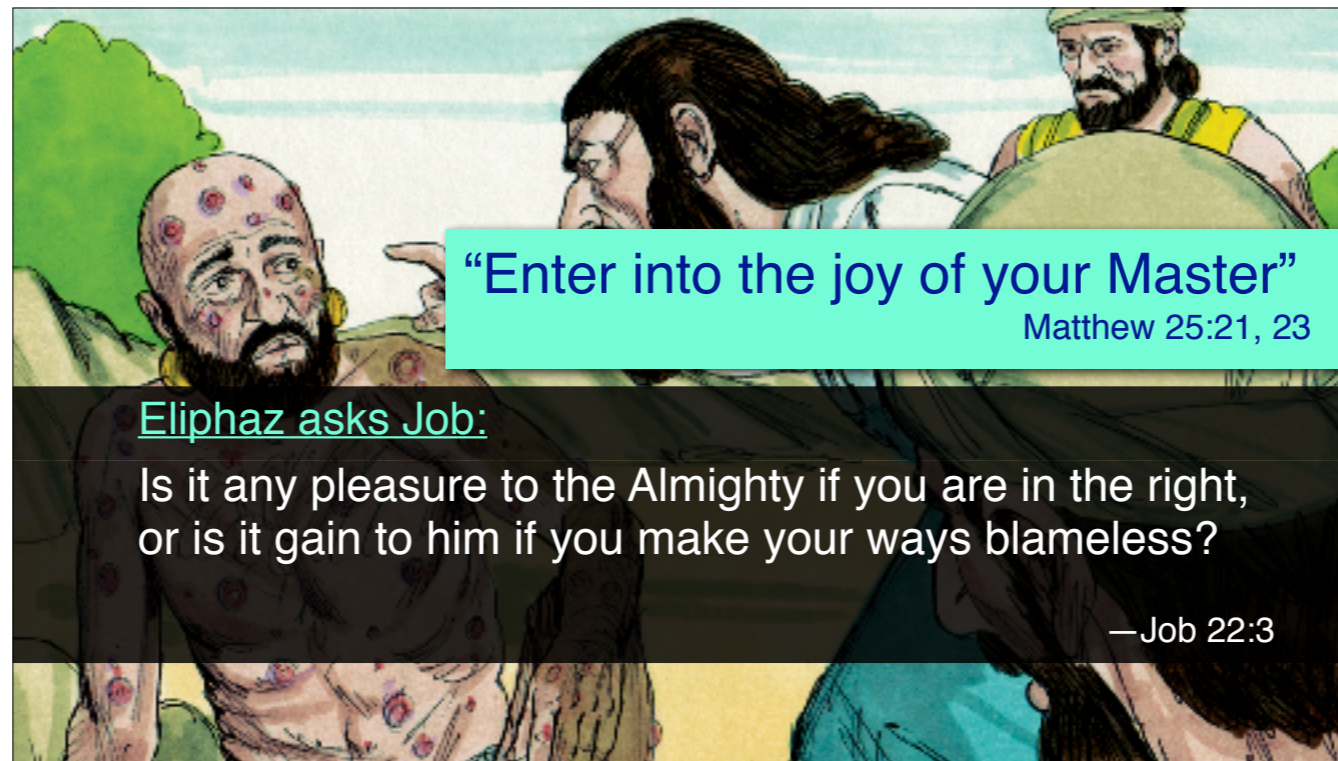
Luke 15:7 10

Eliphaz asks Job:

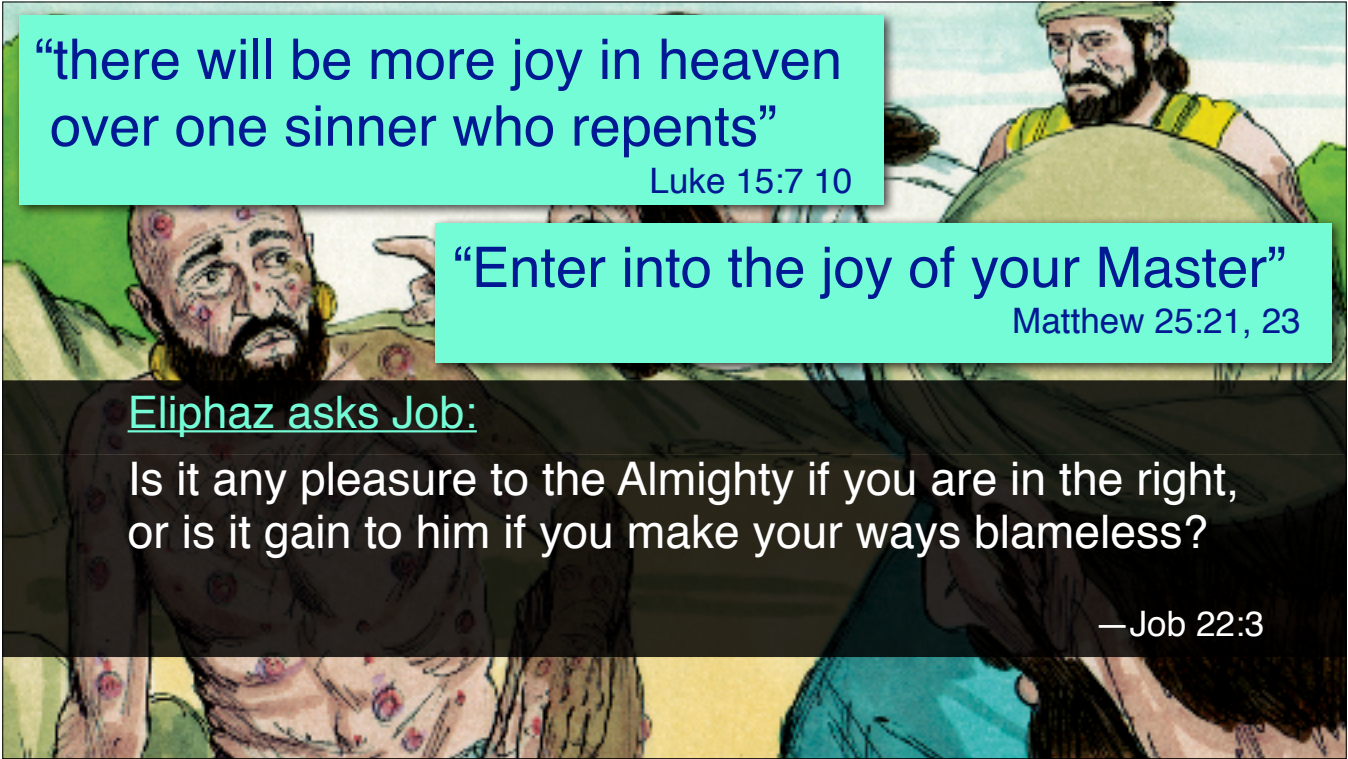
Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right,
or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

—Job 22:3

- Consider the parables of the lost sheep and coin, in which Jesus makes the obvious conclusion that "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:7, 10).
- There is joy in heaven when those of us who are wrong turn back from sin and do right.



- Or in the parable of the talents, recall that those who served faithfully were told "Enter into the joy of your Master" (Matthew 25:21, 23).
- God is joyful when you serve Him faithfully.

The background of the slide features a colorful illustration. On the left, Job is depicted with a beard and a body covered in sores and scars, looking distressed. On the right, Eliphaz is shown with a beard and a yellow sash, looking towards Job. The scene is set against a backdrop of green hills and a blue sky.

“there will be more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents”

Luke 15:7 10

“Enter into the joy of your Master”

Matthew 25:21, 23

Eliphaz asks Job:

Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right,
or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

—Job 22:3

- Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right?
- YES!!!
- God finds joy in you when you turn from sin and when you live righteously and faithfully before Him.



Matthew 5:3-12



3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.



5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.



6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.



7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.



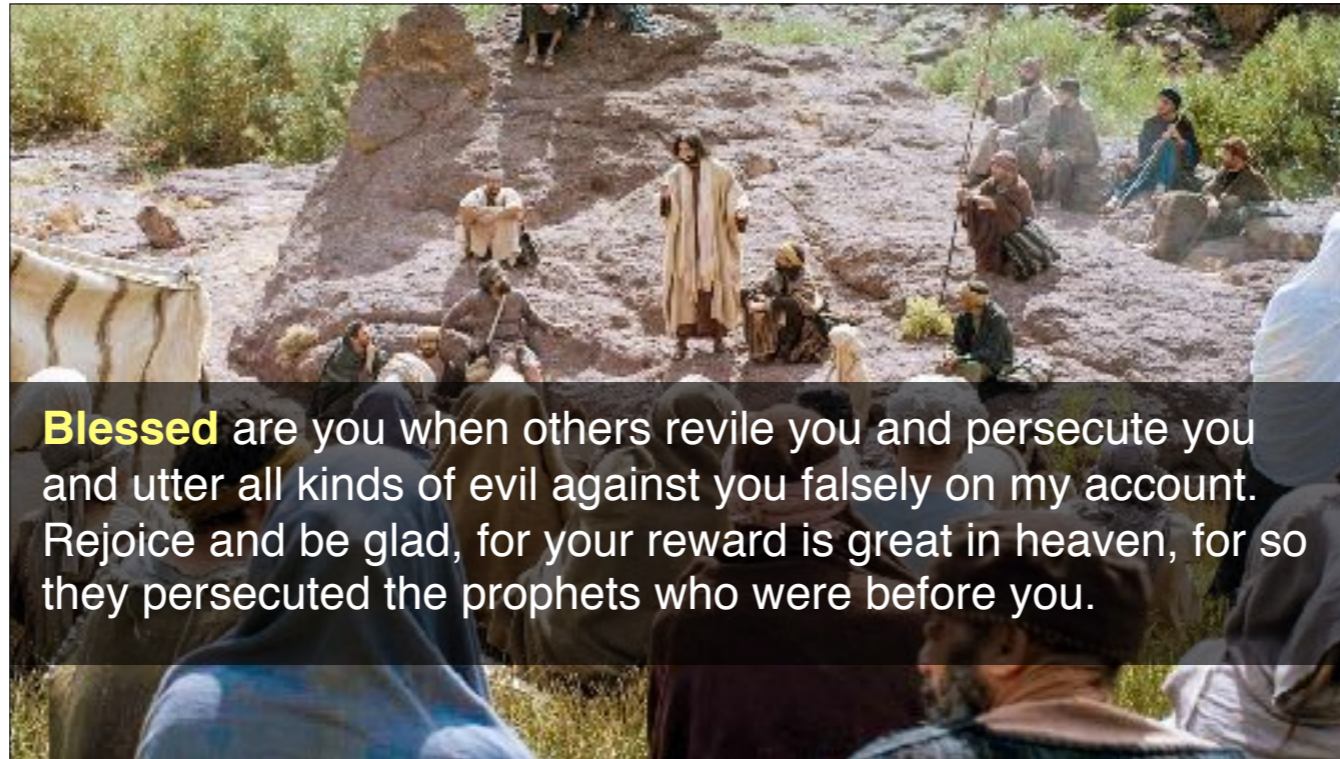
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.



9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.



10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness 'sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

"blessed"

Blessed

What does it mean?

"blessed"

Happy

Commonly defined as Happy

Especially to children, but we aren't children (most of us!)

"blessed"

Happy

"*Happy* are those who *mourn*"



"Happy are those who mourn" ???

but we end up with paradoxical (at best) or nonsense (at worst) statements

Happy is not sufficient, but brings up a good point we need to consider



The world is chasing after happiness, most commonly in things, or ideas, or entertainment, or success, or fame. But we have little idea of how to be truly happy.

Know of those who have all they want, o fame, yet still not happy.

More things doesn't necessarily equal more happiness. Continue the pursuit...



It's a fantasy, it's as make believe as Santa Claus.

The whole world, then as now, was in earnest pursuit of happiness and had just as little notion as men today of how to obtain it.

Earnhart, Paul (2012-04-27). Invitation to a Spiritual Revolution (Kindle Locations 195-196). DeWard Publishing Company. Kindle Edition.



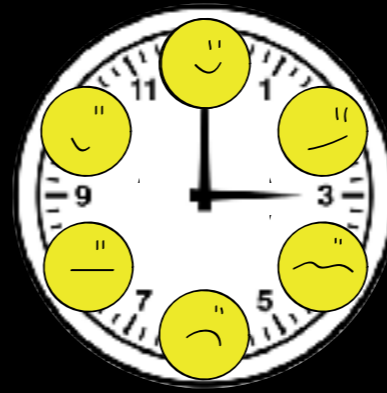
Faking happiness?

So we spend our time acting as if we were happy

Putting on a happy face, but deep inside we know something is wrong, or missing.

"blessed"

Happy



Not just happy, though that may be a part of it.

Happiness is an emotion that varies,

"blessed"

> much more than
Happy

when we have the right character before God, of course both He and I will be happy.

Also, happy is all about me.

But blessed is much more than happiness.

blessed, happy

In **congratulations**, the reason
why one is to be pronounced
blessed.

— Thayer

Henry Thayer defines this word as “blessed, happy. In congratulations, the reason why one is to be pronounced blessed”.

to be blessed means,
fundamentally, to be approved,
to find approval

— D. A. Carson

Carson said that: “to be blessed means, fundamentally, to be approved, to find approval.”

the man to be congratulated; to
be envied; for he alone is truly
happy

— Martin Lloyd-Jones

Lloyd Jones says that the man who is blessed is “the man to be congratulated; to be envied; for he alone is truly happy.”

“ O the blessedness of
those who . . . ! ”

Lenski: The form is almost exclamatory: “O the blessedness of those who,” etc.!

Barclay: “are” is added. Not really a verb in this sentence: “O the blessedness of the poor in spirit!”

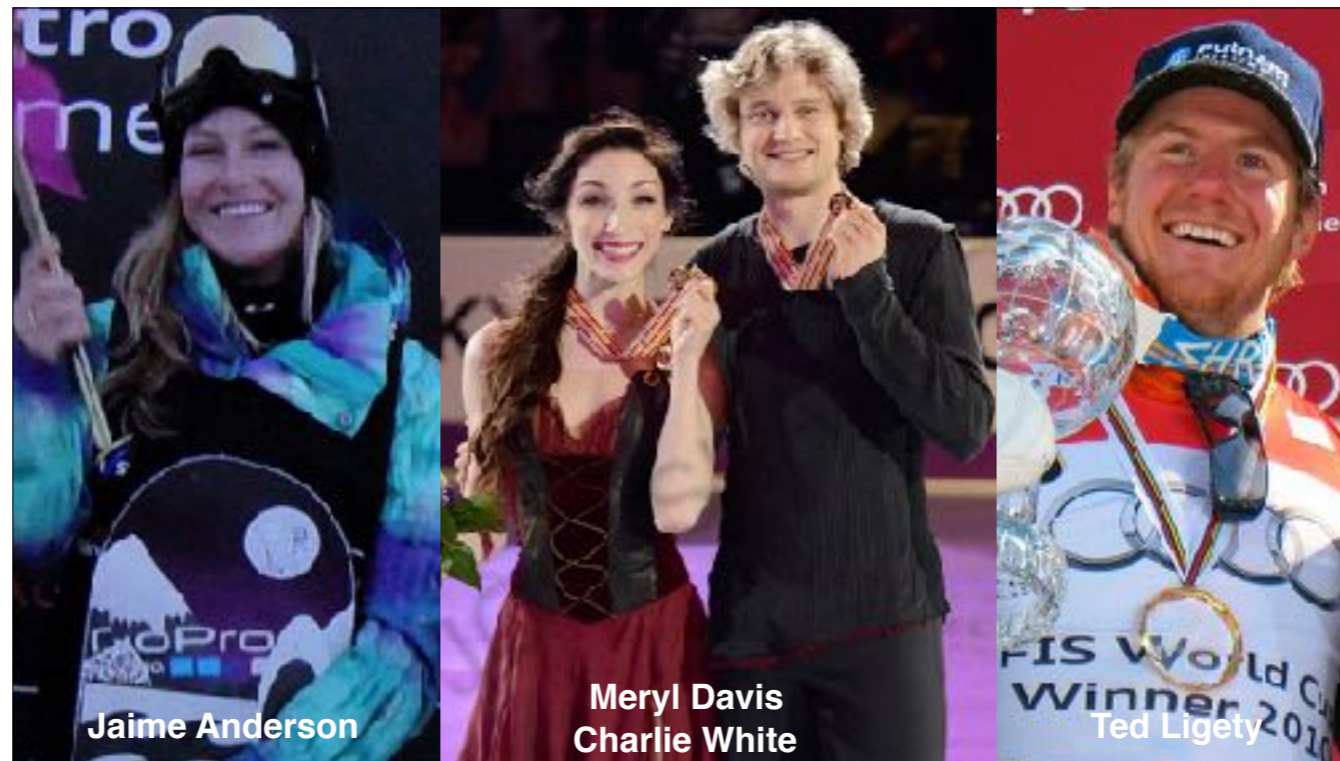
"blessed"

> Happy

= Approved by God



Much deeper meaning: approved by God and therefore favored by God; we are to be congratulated. Applause of heaven (Lucado)

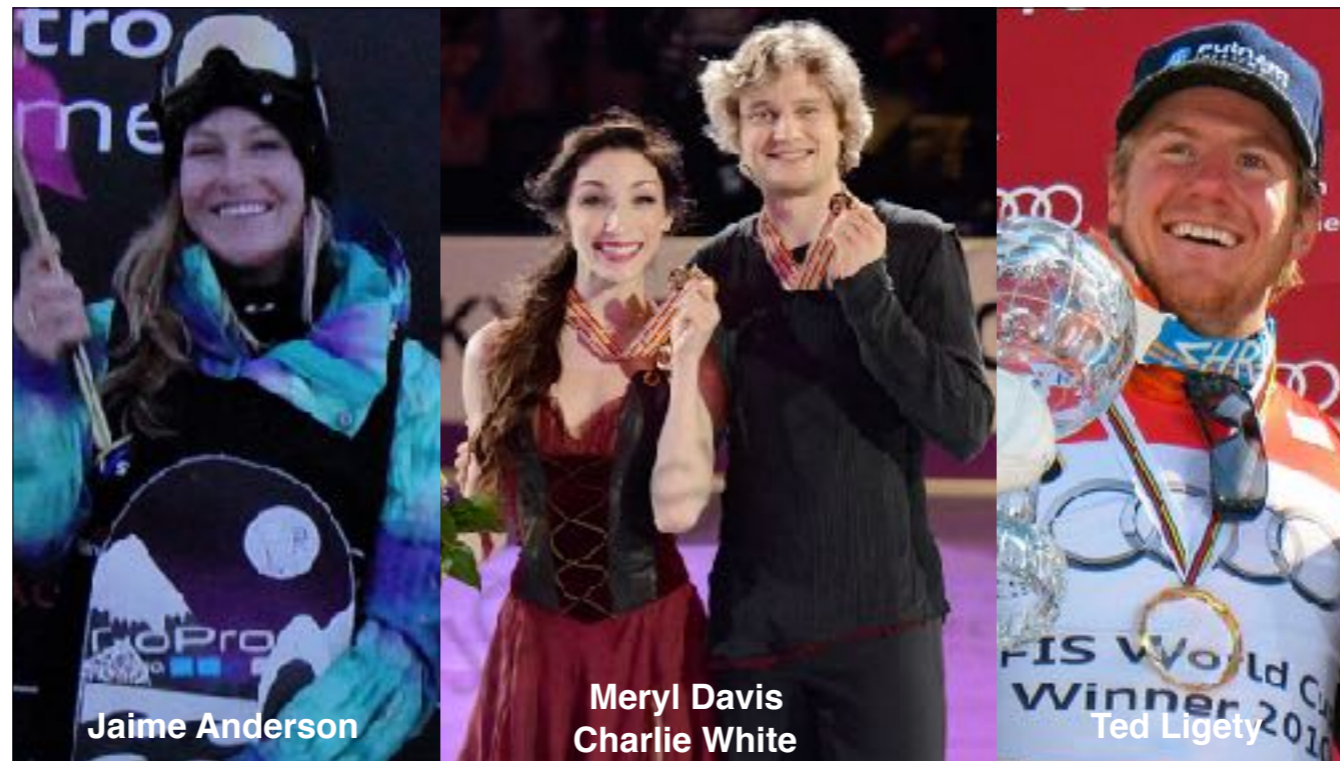


Gold metal winners for USA

Jaime Anderson: Women's Slopestyle

Meryl Davis and Charlie White: Ice Dancing

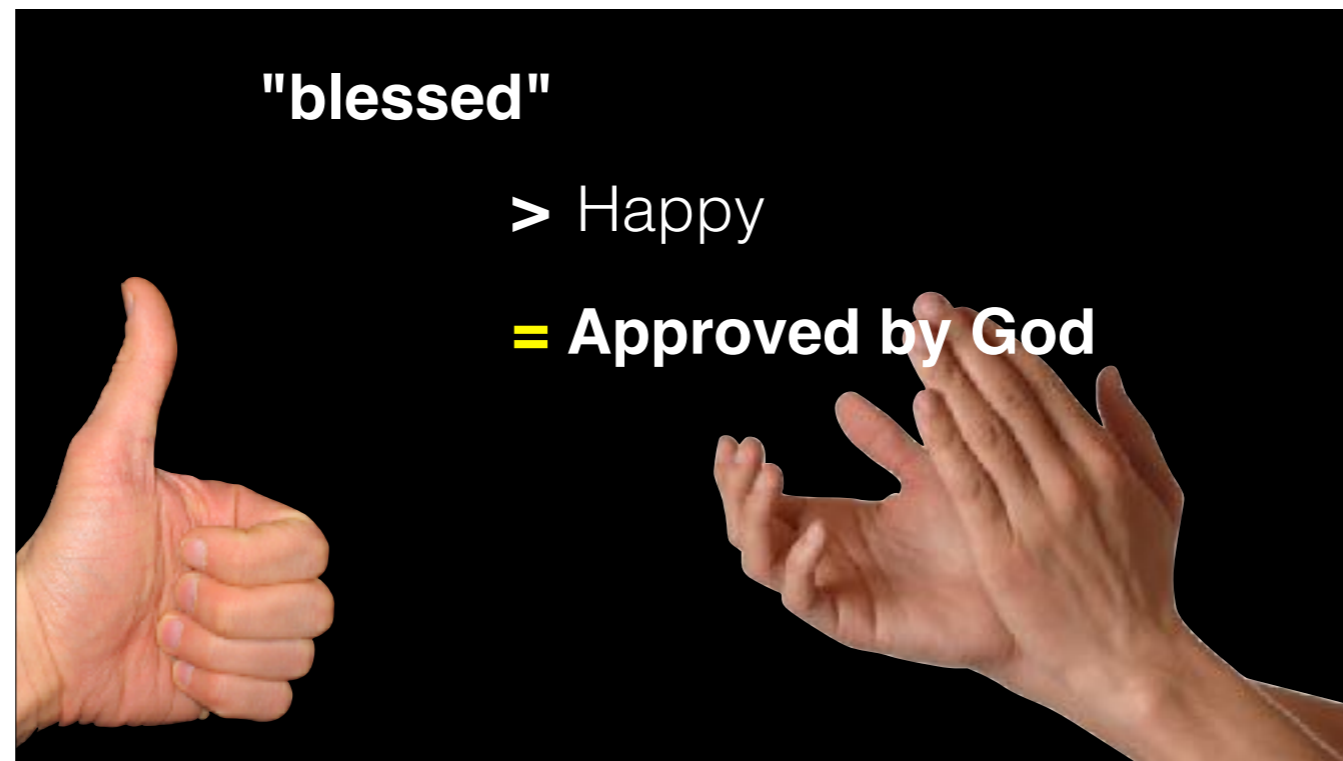
Ted Ligety: Men's giant slalom



My wife watches, and claps for these people.

No connection except “USA”.

She approves of their efforts and congratulates them.



Jesus is not declaring what they may feel like ('happy').

Rather teaching us what God thinks of them and that on that account they are 'blessed'."



Stott: “Nevertheless, it is seriously misleading to render *makarios* ‘happy’. For happiness is a subjective state, whereas Jesus is making an objective judgment about these people.

He is declaring not what they may feel like (‘happy’), but what God thinks of them and that on that account they are: they are ‘blessed’.”



The example of Jesus...

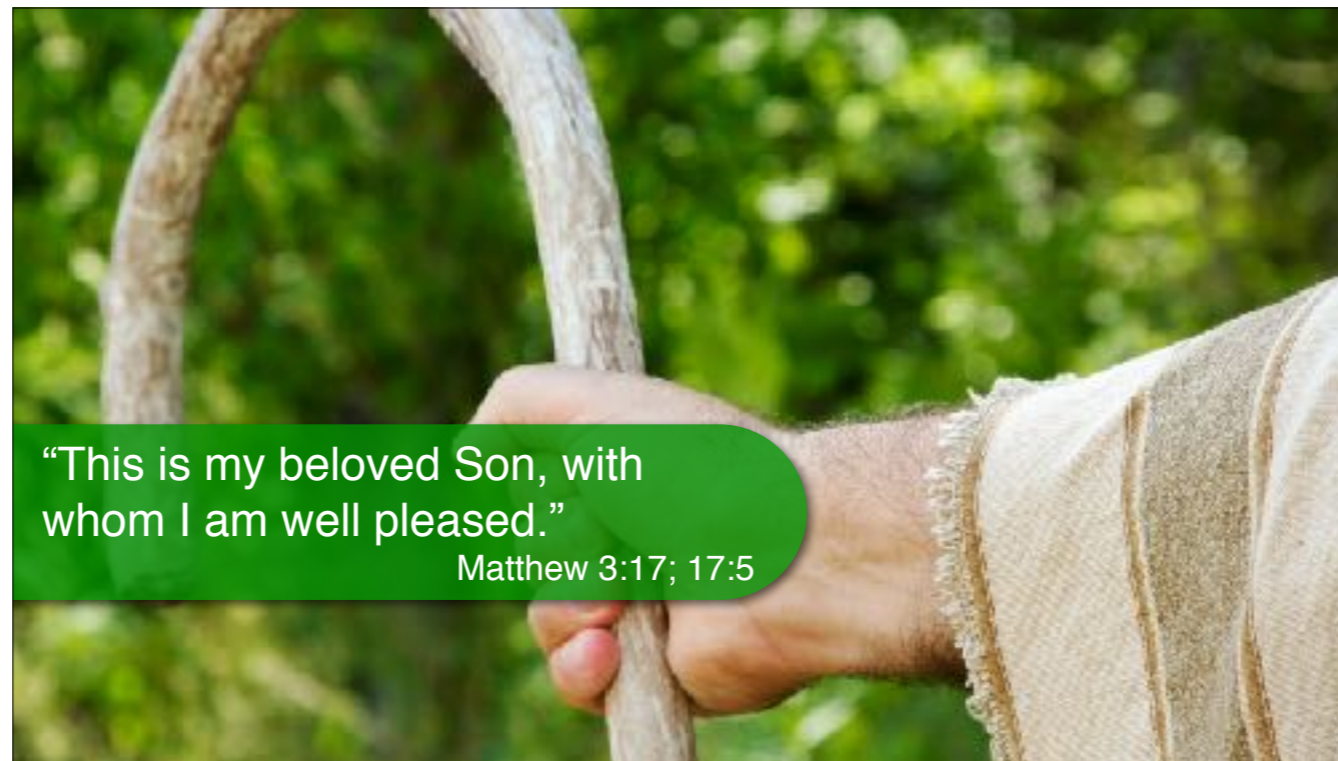
Ultimate approval of God.



“This is my beloved Son, with
whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17; 17:5

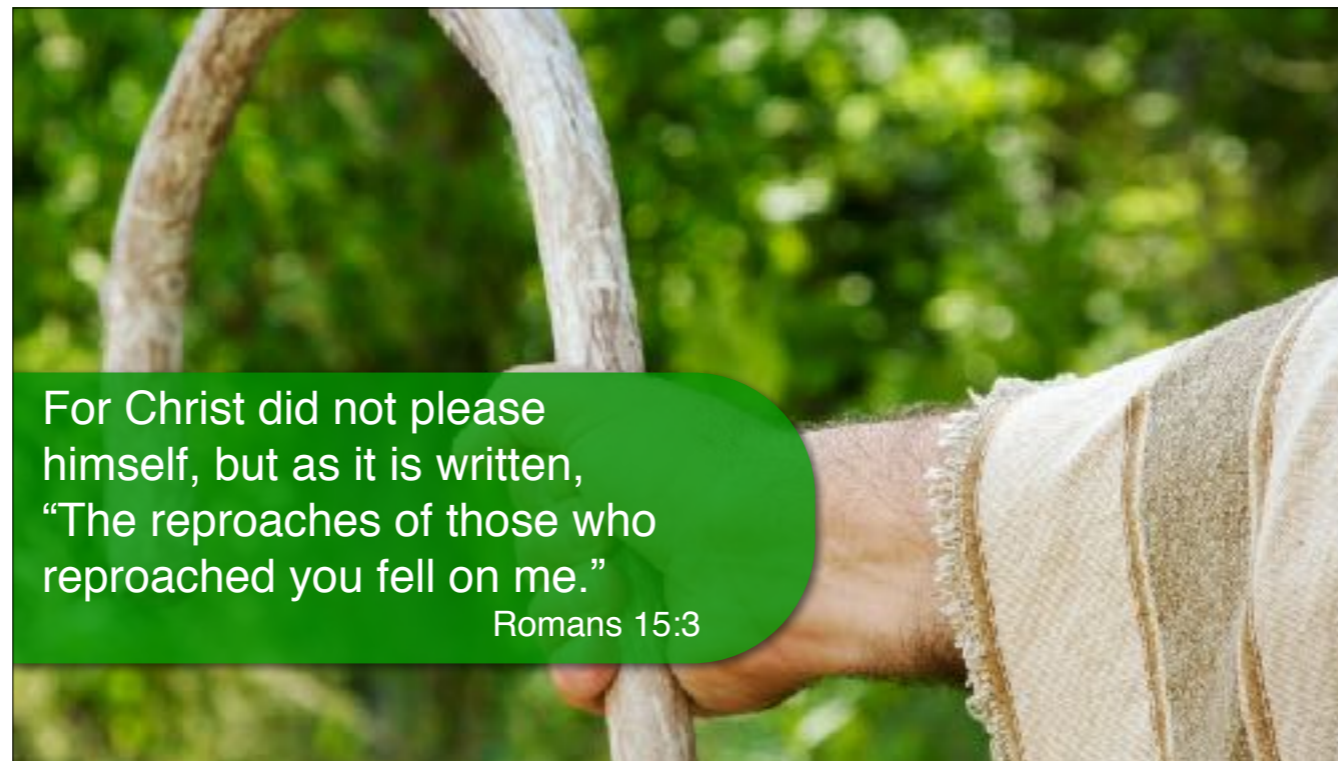
- Matthew 3:17: and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
- Matthew 17:5: He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”



“This is my beloved Son, with
whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17; 17:5

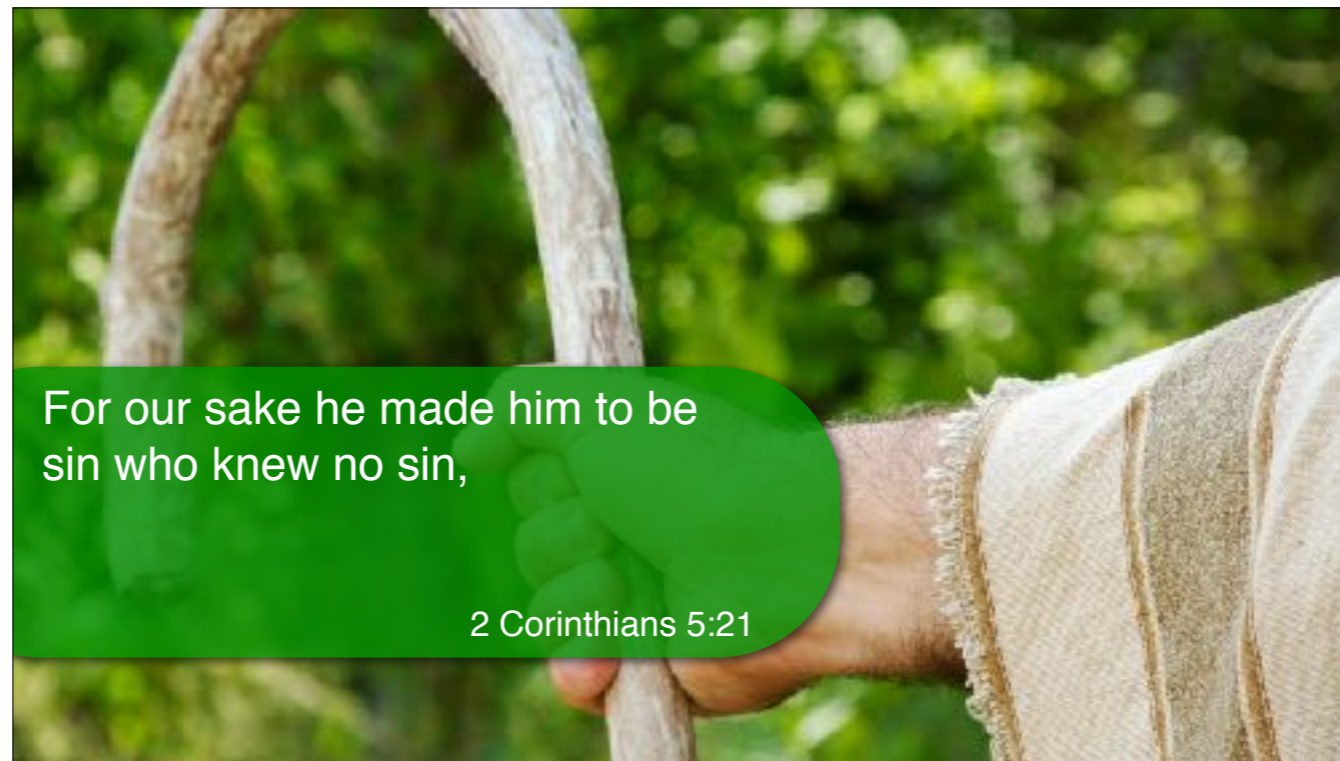
- 2 Peter 1:17: For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”
- Matthew 12:18: “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.



For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."

Romans 15:3

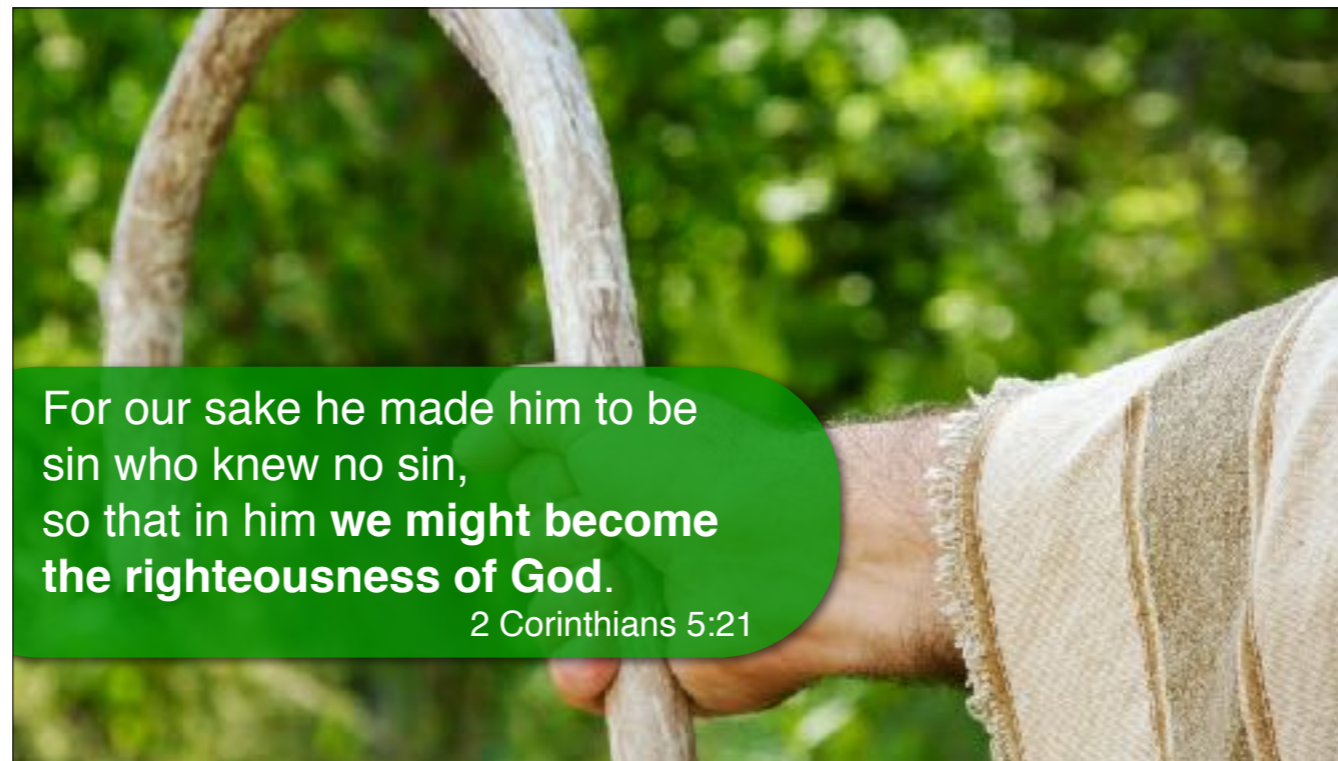
Romans 15:3: For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."



For our sake he made him to be
sin who knew no sin,

2 Corinthians 5:21

2 Corinthians 5:21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



For our sake he made him to be
sin who knew no sin,
so that in him **we might become
the righteousness of God.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

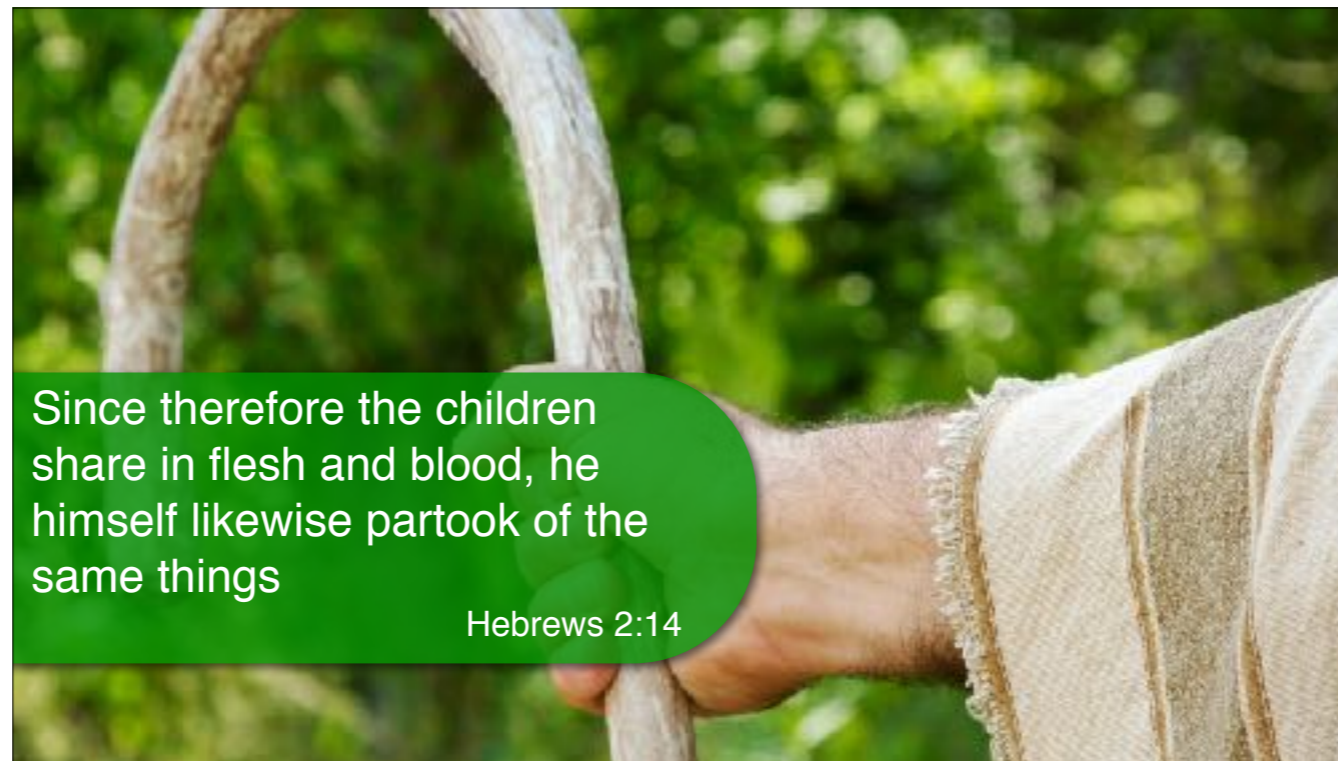
2 Corinthians 5:21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

character, who i am



one who in every respect has been
tempted as we are, yet without sin.
Hebrews 4:15

Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.



Since therefore the children
share in flesh and blood, he
himself likewise partook of the
same things

Hebrews 2:14

Hebrews 2:14: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things...

Phil. 2.7: Likeness of man

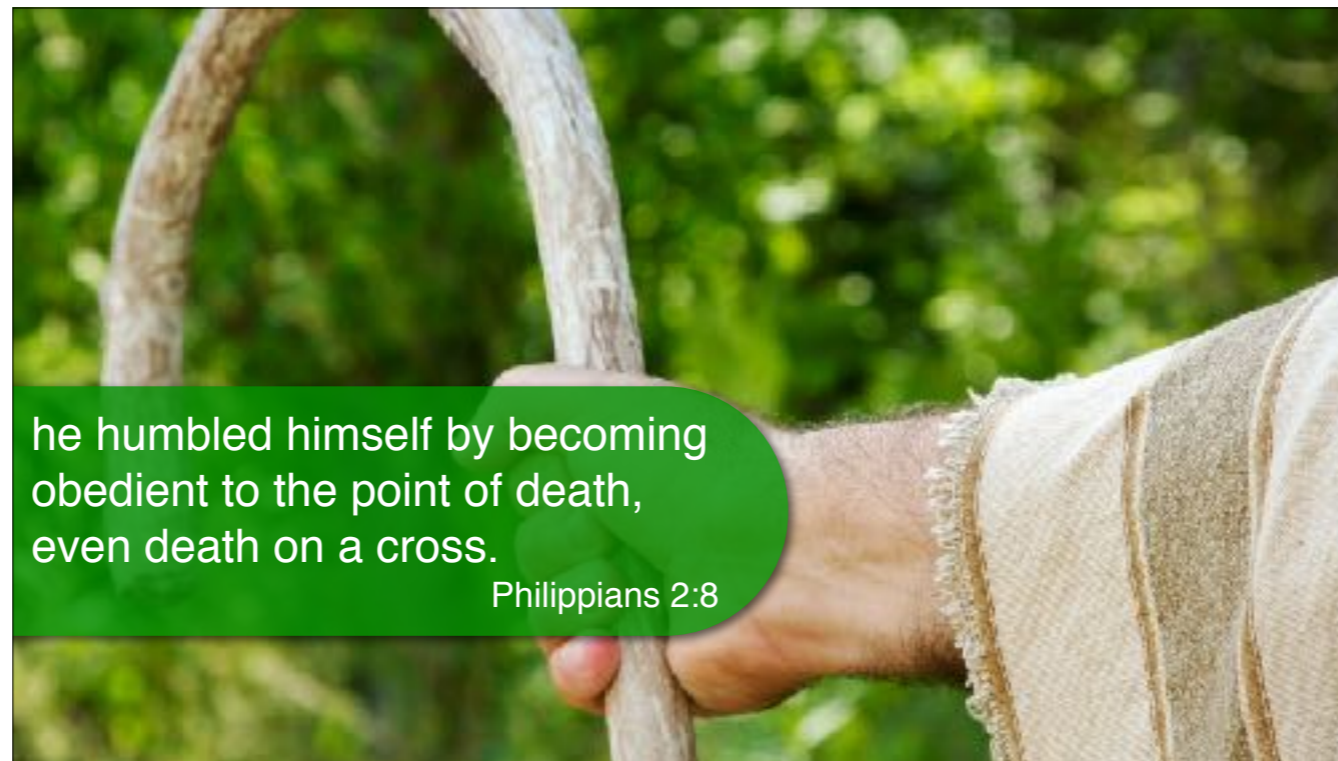
Deity: John 1:1-4; 14



being born in the likeness of
men. And being found in
human form

Philippians 2:7-8

Philippians 2:6-8: who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



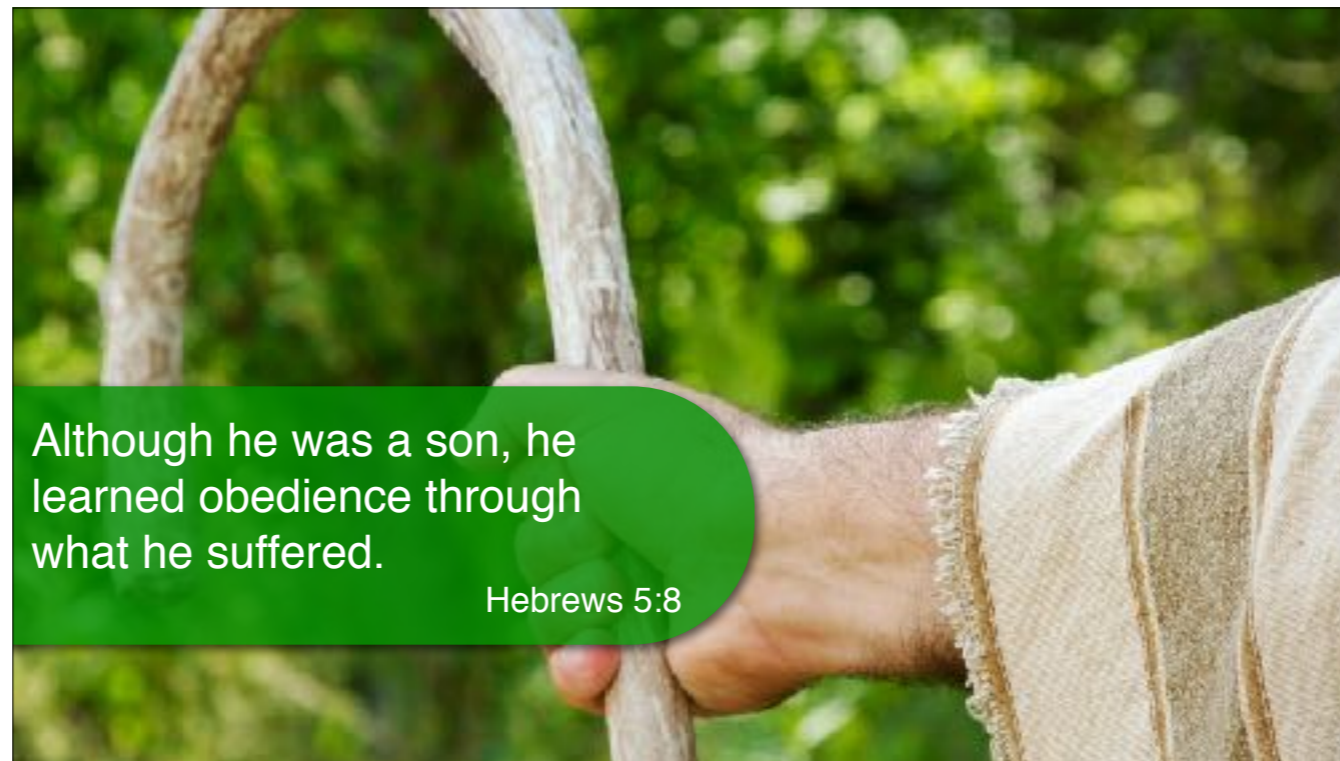
he humbled himself by becoming
obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

How was he able to do this?

Special powers?

Philippians 2:8: he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

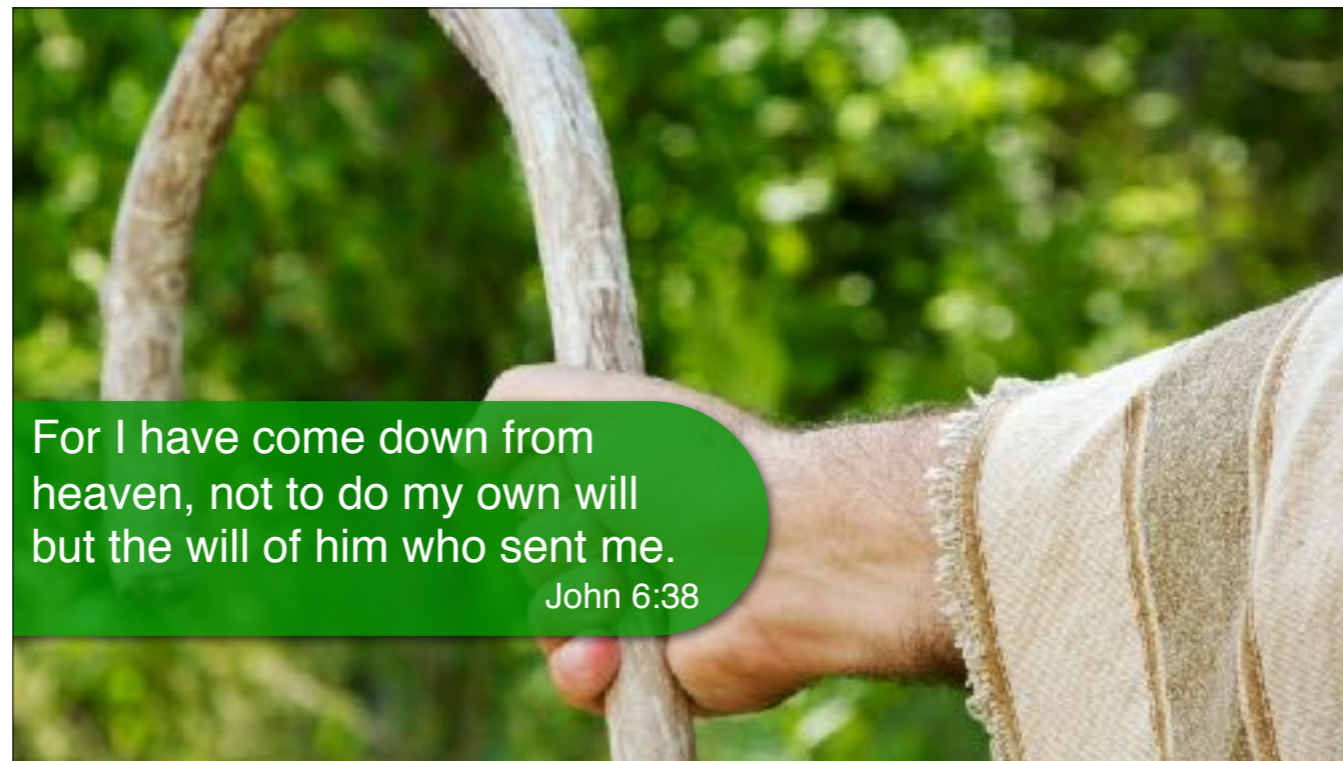


Although he was a son, he
learned obedience through
what he suffered.

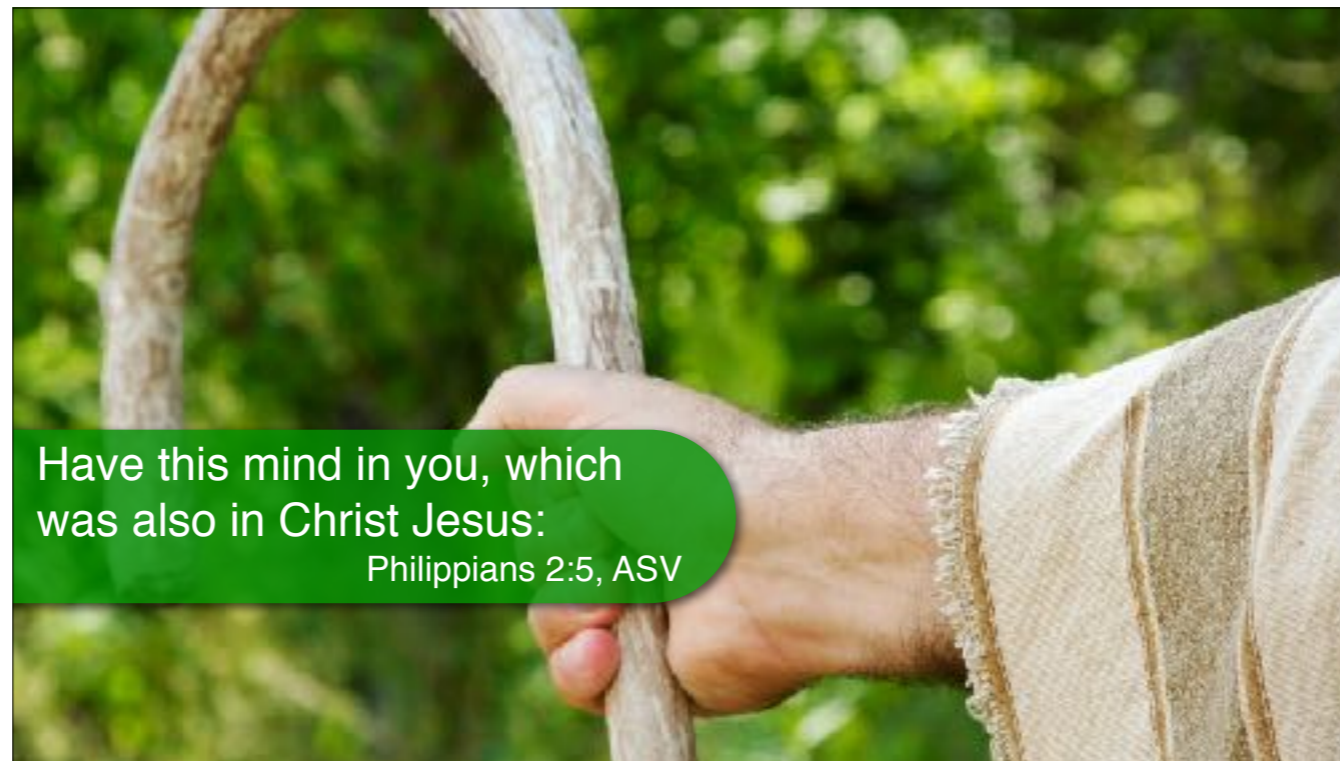
Hebrews 5:8

He chose to... as a man.

Hebrews 5:8: Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

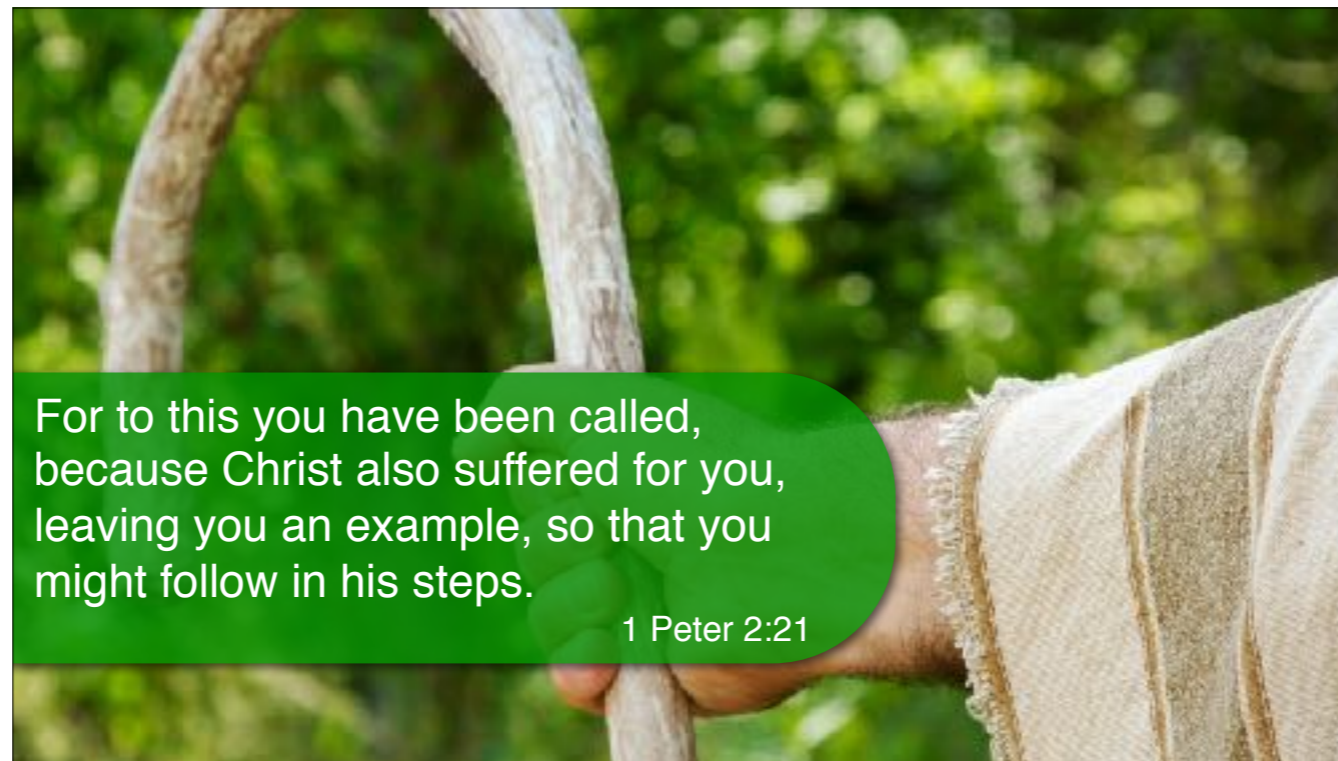


John 6:38: For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

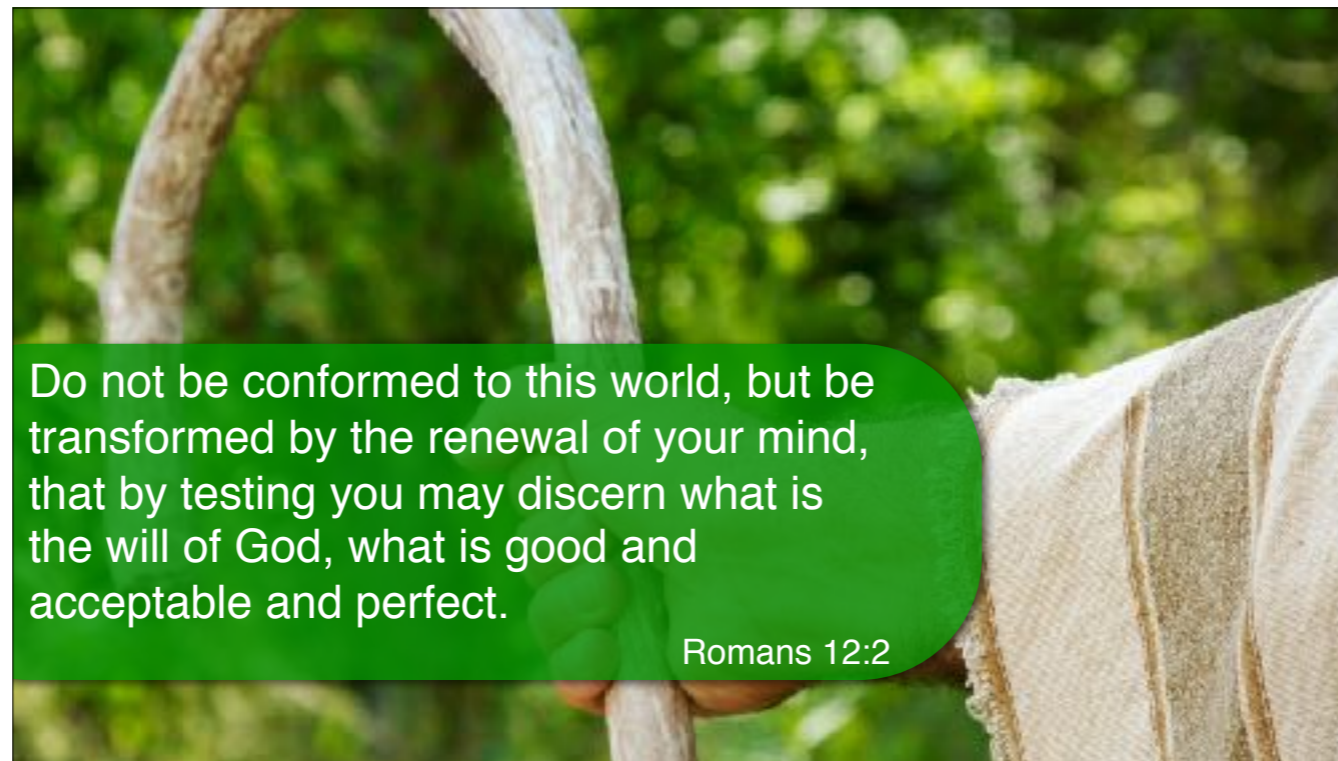


Have this mind in you, which
was also in Christ Jesus:
Philippians 2:5, ASV

Philippians 2:5 (ASV): Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:



1 Peter 2:21: For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.



Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

What does Jehovah approve of?

What does Jehovah approve of?

What does Jehovah approve of?

Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed.**”

—John 20:29

John 20:29: Believe

Psalms 40:4: Blessed is the man who makes Jehovah his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

Psalms 84:12 O Jehovah of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

What does Jehovah approve of?

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds
are **forgiven**, and whose sins are covered;
blessed is the man against whom the Lord
will **not count his sin**.”

—Romans 4:7-8

Romans 4:7-8: forgiveness of sins

Psalms 32:1-2: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

What does Jehovah approve of?

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds
are **forgiven**, and whose sins are covered;
blessed is the man against whom the Lord
will **not count his sin**.”

—Romans 4:7-8

Psalms 32:5: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
Selah

Psalms 32:6: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

What does Jehovah approve of?

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I
would give it; you will not be pleased with a
burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a
broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O
God, you will not despise.

—Psalm 51:16-17

Psalm 51.16-17: humble repentance

Not: sacrifice, burnt offering

Broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart (repent!)

What does Jehovah approve of?

Blessed are those who **wash their robes**, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

—Revelation 22:14

Revelation 22:14: wash robes

What does Jehovah approve of?

But he said, “Blessed rather are those who
hear the word of God and keep it!”

—Luke 11:28

Luke 11:28: Hear and Keep

What does Jehovah approve of?

But the one who looks into the perfect law,
the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no
hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he
will be blessed in his **doing**.

—James 1:25

James 1:25: Doing

Psalms 106:3: Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

Blessed is the man ...

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

—Psalm 1:1-2

- Psalms 1 (ESV) 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

What does Jehovah approve of?

poor in spirit

merciful

mourn

pure in heart

meek

peacemakers

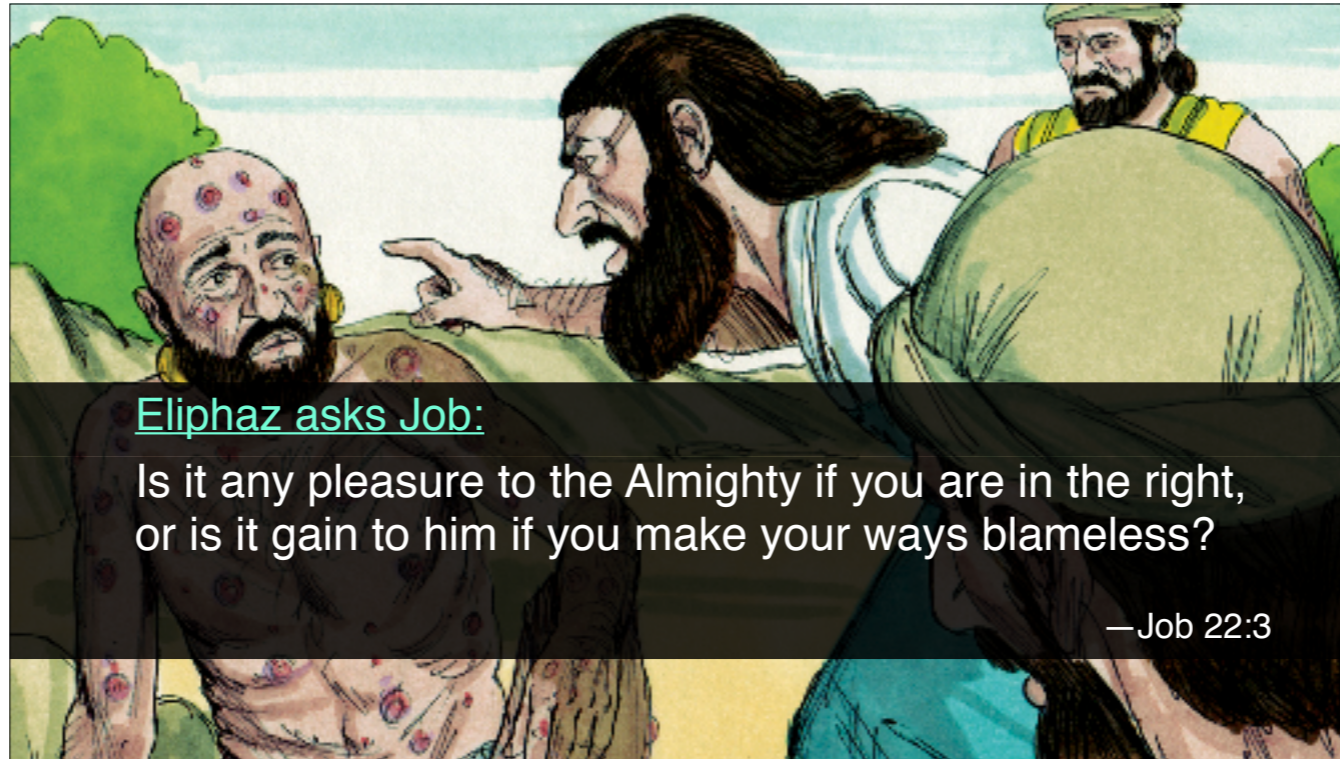
**hunger & thirst for
righteousness**

**rejoice
when persecuted**

What does Jehovah approve of?

These 8 traits in you!

Do you know someone who is like this?



Eliphaz asks Job:

Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right,
or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

—Job 22:3

- Job 22:1-3: Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: “Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?”

There is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that day, and not only to me
but also to all who have loved his appearing.

—2 Timothy 4:8

- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (ESV) 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Chasing Santa: 123rf.com: 23727895_xxl

Job: http://distantshores.org/images/rg/18/18_Jb_15_01_RG.jpg

You Can Be Blessed

Matthew 5:3-12

Synopsis: Blessed is the key word Jesus uses to describe the essential character of the citizen of the kingdom. Often simply translated as “happy”, it means much more than this.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”