

**DON'T BE A MISERABLE
CHRISTIAN!**

Joy Is The Natural State of God's People

Philippians 4:4 (ESV) — 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (ESV) — 16 Rejoice always,

Nehemiah 8:10 (ESV) — 10 ... do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- Fearful of harm

Mark 4:36–40 (ESV)

36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. **37** And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. **38** But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” **39** And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. **40** He said to them, “**Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?**”

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- ⦿ Fearful of harm
- ⦿ Does not trust God to provide basic needs

Romans 8:31–32 (ESV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Matthew 6:31–34 (ESV)

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- ⦿ Fearful of harm
- ⦿ Does not trust God to provide basic needs
- ⦿ Cannot be satisfied with a “No” or “Wait”

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (ESV)

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- ⦿ Fearful of harm
- ⦿ Does not trust God to provide basic needs
- ⦿ Cannot be satisfied with a “No” or “Wait”
- ⦿ Dislikes humble service

Philippians 2:3–8 (ESV)

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- ⦿ Fearful of harm
- ⦿ Does not trust God to provide basic needs
- ⦿ Cannot be satisfied with a “No” or “Wait”
- ⦿ Dislikes humble service
- ⦿ Only hopes in this life

1 Corinthians 15:17–19 (ESV)

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

1 Corinthians 15:30–32 (ESV)

30 Why are we in danger every hour? **31** I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! **32** What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- ⦿ Fearful of harm
- ⦿ Does not trust God to provide basic needs
- ⦿ Cannot be satisfied with a “No” or “Wait”
- ⦿ Dislikes humble service
- ⦿ Only hopes in this life
- ⦿ Serves sin

Romans 6:6–11 (ESV)

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. ... **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:26–31 (ESV)

26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. **28** Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. **29** How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Don't Be a Miserable Christian!

- ⦿ Is fearful of harm
- ⦿ Does not trust God to provide basic needs
- ⦿ Cannot be satisfied with a “No” or “Wait”
- ⦿ Dislikes humble service
- ⦿ Only hopes in this life
- ⦿ Serves sin

Joy Is The Natural State of God's People

Philippians 4:4 (ESV) — 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (ESV) — 16 Rejoice always,

Nehemiah 8:10 (ESV) — 10 ... do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Ephesians 2:12–13 (ESV)

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.