

“What is Sweeter than Honey?”

A Heirarchy of Delights

Types of Delight

- Joy
- Happiness
- Pleasure

What is Pleasure?

the satisfaction of our physical senses or our
desire for amusement

What gives pleasure?

- Food and drink
- The relief of excessive heat or cold
- Beauty
- Relaxation
- Companionship
- Receiving praise
- Physical contact
- Diversion



What is Happiness?

- “being favored by luck or fortune”
- “enjoying well-being and contentment”

What circumstances bring happiness?

- Wealth
- Power
- Fame or glory
- Freedom from trouble or misery
- Having a good family
- Health
- Good luck/fortune



What is Joy?

- “a feeling of great pleasure and happiness”
- “the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires”

What is Joy?

“the emotion which comes when one has grasped a good, or fulfilled a strong desire that is crucial to a person’s own flourishing, the by-product of fulfilling his or her deepest yearnings”

Delights and their Causes

- Joy
- Happiness
- Pleasure
- Good realities
- Good circumstances
- Good feelings



What does the Bible teach about delights?

- The enjoyment of pleasure is a blessing from God

Pleasure is a blessing from God

Ecclesiastes 2:24 - Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 - I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, **13** and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 - Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.

Ecclesiastes 8:15 - So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:7–9 (NKJV)

Go, eat your bread with joy, And drink your wine with a merry heart; For God has already accepted your works. **8** Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil. **9** Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life **which He has given you** under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.

What does the Bible teach about delights?

- The enjoyment of pleasure is a blessing from God
- But it must be used wisely

Proverbs 25:16 (NKJV)

Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

Proverbs 21:17 (NKJV)

He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:1 (NKJV)

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. **10** Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. **1** Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”:

Philippians 3:18–19 (NKJV)

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: **19** whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

What does the Bible teach about delights?

- The enjoyment of pleasure is a blessing from God
- But it must be used wisely
- Learning the proper use of lower delights helps us to properly enjoy the higher ones

Proverbs 24:13–14 (NKJV)

My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; **14** So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 25:27–28 (NKJV)

It is not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory is not glory. **28** Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

What does the Bible teach about delights?

- The enjoyment of pleasure is a blessing from God
- But it must be used wisely
- Learning the proper use of lower delights helps us to properly enjoy the higher ones
- There is a higher happiness and joy available to the people of God

Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV)

... this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

What does the Bible teach about delights?

- The enjoyment of pleasure is a blessing from God
- But it must be used wisely
- Learning the proper use of lower delights helps us to properly enjoy the higher ones
- There is a higher happiness and joy available to the people of God
- The pursuit of pleasure or happiness cannot compensate for a lack of joy

Delights and their Causes

- Joy
- Happiness
- Pleasure
- Good realities
- Good circumstances
- Good feelings

Psalm 19:9–10 (NKJV)

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true and
righteous altogether. **10** More to be desired are
they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.