

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



How to find joy in every part of your life

John 10:10 has been one of my favorite scriptures for many years. It says: "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" (AMPC). This verse clearly shows us that God wants us to enjoy our lives—in abundance, to the full, until we're overflowing with joy!

I remember when God gave me the revelation that it's His will for me to enjoy my life. It was life-changing because I used to be a miserable person who was emotionally unstable and couldn't be happy unless I got my way in most circumstances in my life. Because of the abuse I had experienced throughout childhood, I was insecure, angry and didn't trust anyone. But once I started seriously studying the Word of God, I came to realize that He didn't want me to live this way. I could be healed and whole in my mind and emotions, and I could learn how to really enjoy my everyday life.

Now, when I say God wanted me to enjoy my everyday life, I'm talking about doing ordinary life with calm delight and a smile on my face (see John 15:11). It's about not dreading the daily responsibilities you have to do whether you like it or not, things like cleaning the house, mowing the grass, going to work, and the list goes on and on. And it's not a "working for the weekend" mentality or an attitude that says "I'll be happy when...I get to go on vacation" or "the kids are back in school" or "I get that promotion" and so on.

It seems today that most people believe they have to wait for their circumstances to change before they can enjoy life. But the truth is you can make the decision to enjoy your ordinary life and make it extraordinary, regardless of your circumstances.

Doing life with God

One of the ways you can take ordinary life and make it extraordinary is to learn to do every single thing you do with and for God. We make a mistake when we separate our sacred life from our secular life. We can be just as close to God in the grocery store as we are at church. And He wants us to do everything we need to do WITH Him.

It actually adds an edge of excitement when we let God be involved in everything we do. He's everywhere, all the time, and He's just as interested in the routine, mundane tasks of our lives as He is in the more "spiri-

tual" things we do.

It's amazing to realize that God wants to have fellowship with us—He wants to spend each day with us. Don't just settle for seeking Him once a week at church or when you're in a desperate situation. Decide that you are going to enjoy your everyday relationship with God!

The truth about real joy

The abundant life Christ offers goes deeper in our hearts than the way we feel about things. It's an amazing thing when we learn how to have the peace and joy only God can give in every area of our lives, instead of the type of enjoyment that's just based on emotional excitement.

The joy of the Lord is much greater than simply feeling happy. It brings peace and contentment to your soul, even when your circumstances are difficult and don't make any sense. Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

This kind of joy makes the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday routine enjoyable. And since most of life is Monday through Friday, we need to enjoy it!

The world can't give it to you

In John 15:11, Jesus says, "I have told you this so that your joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." The Amplified translation says "that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing." In the ten verses leading up to this one, Jesus is talking about abiding in Him, because that's the key to living with His joy.

Abiding means "to live, dwell and remain in"; it's not just visiting once a week at church. It's having a personal relationship with Christ, being one with Him and doing life together. The truth is apart from Jesus, we can do nothing of real value, but with Him, we can bear much good fruit (John 15:5).

God wants to abide with you every day, all throughout the day. He doesn't just want you to seek Him when you go to church or when you're desperate. His desire is to have a personal relationship with you, so you can experience His presence in everything you do. That's when your everyday life is really enjoyable!

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.

IN MEMORIAM

Sylvia M. Aldrich
1950-2016

Sylvia M. Aldrich, 66, of Cottage Grove passed away Oct. 2, 2016 at home with her husband by her side.

She was born to Donald and Bertha (Casper) Kenady in Portland, Oregon.

While working at A&W in Cottage Grove, she met and later married Elton Aldrich on Oct. 11, 1969 in Reno, Nevada.

Sylvia worked as a car hop, a clothing retail clerk, bank clerk and a jewelry sales person. She also owned and operated the Fashion Crossroads in Cottage Grove for over three years.

Sylvia attended Lane Community College in the Medical Assistance Program becoming a Certified Medical Assistant. She worked in Medical Records at Willamette Valley Cancer Institute in Eugene for 17 years and retired in 2015 but was still active with the Lane Chapter of Medical Assistants.

She is survived by her husband, Elton Aldrich, daughter, Stacey (Dustin) Woods of Harrisburg, Ore., son, Travis (Joley) Aldrich of Cottage Grove, and five grandchildren, the true loves of her life.

Visitation was held Friday, Oct. 7, 2016 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel. A memorial service followed on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at the Calvary Chapel in Cottage Grove. Memorial contributions may be made to the Oregon Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 11004, Eugene, OR 97440. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Death Notice

Mark Alan Anderson, 53, of Drain, Oregon died Oct. 3, 2016. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 17 at the Drain City Cemetery. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

Elizabeth S. Smith
1917-2016

Elizabeth (Betty) S. Smith, 99, of Cottage Grove died Sept. 29, 2016 of age related illness.

She was born July 1, 1917 in Bellingham, Wash. to Jerome and Elda Corrien.

She attended high school.

In 1938 in Bellingham, Wash., she and John D. Smith were married. He preceded her in death.

Betty was a homemaker, also enjoying fishing, hunting, gardening and cooking, and was a member of the Elks Lodge.

Survivors are her daughter, Janice D. Pollard and husband, Sid, of Eugene, Oregon, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

No service is planned. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

M. Dean McAllister
1940-2016

M. Dean McAllister, 75, of Cottage Grove died Oct. 2, 2016.

He was born Oct. 27, 1940 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Charles and Carrie (Cole) McAllister.

He graduated from Brigham Young University with both bachelors and masters degrees. Dean retired from the Air Force/Army as a Major. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Service Star, Air Force Service Award Medal and Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

On Aug. 20, 2002 at the LDS Temple in Portland, Oregon, he and Lawnedia were married.

He worked as a regional manager for Michelin, was a financial investment counselor, a

substitute teacher and worked for Small Business Administration as a public information officer.

As an avid lifetime seeker of knowledge, he enjoyed learning by reading and attending higher institutional classes. As a young man, he was a runner and enjoyed exercise. He loved his family and friends and was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Survivors include his wife of Cottage Grove, two daughters, Kristen Reese and Alissa Southwick, both of Utah, four sons, Michael McAllister and Ryan McAllister, both of Utah, and Jon McAllister and Matt McAllister, both of Nevada, three stepchildren, Brad Devlin, Rachel Devlin and Russell Devlin, all of Oregon, a brother, Don McAllister, and a sister, Janine Henderson, both of Oregon, 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Visitation was held Oct. 7 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 531 S. 10th St., in Cottage Grove with a funeral following at 10 a.m. Burial took place Oct. 10 at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Talana Christine
Lyda Fairfax
1982-2016

Talana Christine Lyda Fairfax, 34, passed away Aug. 31, 2016 in a Seattle hospital from complications of Cystic Fibrosis.

Talana was raised in Cottage Grove and attended Bohemia Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School and graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 2000. She attended Western Oregon University and graduated with a teaching certificate in 2004. She substitute taught in the Salem School District for the next three years.

She met and married Matthew Fairfax in Oct. 2006 in Reno, Nevada. Talana and Matt lived in Las Vegas and San Mateo, and then moved to Seattle in Oct. 2015.

Talana struggled with her health for years and finally had a double lung transplant in June

of 2012. The next three years were great ones and she was able to go to work full time at Eat 24.

Talana loved playing the piano, knitting, chatting with many friends on several chat sites and, of course, Facebook.

Survivors include her husband, Matthew Fairfax, her parents, Terry and Mary Lyda, and her sister, Heidi Lyda.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 15 at her parents' house in Cottage Grove at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Make-a Wish or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Keith Hoffman
1933-2016

Keith Hoffman, 83, of Cottage Grove died Oct. 3, 2016.

He was born Jan. 28, 1933 in Myrtle Point, Oregon to Charles and Fern Hoffman.

He attended high school and college and served in the Army from 1953 to 1961.

Keith worked as an auto body mechanic and enjoyed camping, fishing and wrestling. He was a member of the Moose Lodge.

Survivors include three children, Elaine Thurber of Cottage Grove, Sonja Hoffman of California, and Heather Hoffman of Cottage Grove, a brother, Dale Hoffman of Myrtle Point, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 6th and Gibbs, in Cottage Grove. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

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