

## MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



People look for happiness in a lot of places. Many chase after a bigger house, a nicer car or a better paying job, while others seek education, marriage or other achievements with great passion.

While it's certainly not wrong to desire these things, there is only one thing in life that can give us true peace, joy and fulfillment—God.

Matthew 6:33 is truly a scripture to live by. Jesus says, "But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides" (AMPC).

Seeking the kingdom includes seeking God Himself and craving an intimate relationship with Him. It's about wanting to know Him and not just what He can do for you. There is quite a difference between seeking possessions and seeking God.

I can still remember a time years ago when I had a lot of the "things" I wanted, but I still wasn't a very happy person.

Sound familiar? The truth is, no matter what you have, if you don't have the peace, joy and fulfillment that only God can give, then you really don't have anything at all!

Romans 14:17 sums this up perfectly. It says, "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (NKJV).

True satisfaction doesn't come from the outside—from all of the things we can do or buy—but it comes from within. God wants us to live with His righteousness, peace and joy. They are Kingdom benefits, and they are part of our inheritance as God's children.

The "Right" Way to Live  
So many people—and even many Christians—walk around feeling vaguely guilty most of the time. They feel like they've made too many mistakes and can never quite measure up. But that's not God's will for us!

Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the right-

eousness of God" (NIV).

As we begin to truly understand our righteousness "in Christ," we will no longer wallow in condemnation or feel like we have to earn God's forgiveness. Instead, we can live with the confidence and security that God knows us better than anyone...and He loves and approves of us.

Supernatural Peace  
I once heard a very famous actor being interviewed about his life and career.

I'll never forget one of the final questions. He was asked, "Is there anything in life you haven't achieved...something you still want?" He simply answered, "Inner peace."

You see, true peace only comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. God offers us His peace that "transcends all understanding" (see Philippians 4:7). It doesn't come from our circumstances, and it's not something we can buy.

God's peace is vital to us because life is unpredictable. When the storms of life begin to swirl around us, there is only One Person who can give us peace in the midst of the storm.

Jesus is the "Prince of Peace," and as you spend time with Him in prayer and through His Word, you will sense His supernatural peace that transcends all understanding.

Joy for the Journey

John 10:10 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).

God wants us to enjoy our lives! That used to be a big problem for me because of the sexual, physical and emotional abuse I endured growing up. As a result, I never really got to be a kid, and I never truly understood what it meant to enjoy my life.

However, joy is part of God's kingdom package (see Psalm 16:11). Like His peace, we can receive and live with God's joy in every circumstance, regardless of what is going on around us.

The dictionary partially defines joy as "a calm delight" and "extreme merriment." I particularly like "a calm delight" because even when we're not doing something we consider exciting, we can still have the joy of the Lord deep inside of our soul.

We often look forward to the weekend or the next fun event in life, but God wants us to experience His joy and satisfaction every single day. In fact, Nehemiah 8:10 says, "...The joy of the Lord is your strength" (NIV). Through the ups and downs of everyday life, God wants to strengthen us for the journey and experience His delight in everything we do.

God isn't against us having "things"—He delights in being good to His children! But He doesn't want those things to have control of us. I encourage you to put God first in your life. Develop a relationship with Him and ask for His guidance and direction. Because there is a way to truly enjoy your life, and it's all found "in Him."

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series Pursuing What Matters Most. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Ladies, join Joyce Meyer for the 35th Annual Love Life Women's Conference September 21-23 in Saint Louis, MO.

For more information, go to [www.joycemeyer.org/lovelife](http://www.joycemeyer.org/lovelife).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including Battlefield of the Mind and Seize the Day: Living on Purpose and Making Every Day Count (Hachette). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.



Jon Dailey 1957-2017

Jon Charles Dailey, 59, passed away March 12, 2017 from complications of a long standing illness. He was born April 9, 1957.

Jon is survived by Carrie Dailey, his children, Jon Jr., Adam, Molly, Jacob and Gracie, a brother, Edmond, three sisters, Karen, Shannon and Heather, and three grandchildren.

Jon worked as a mechanic, heavy equipment operator and truck driver.

His hobbies included RC car racing, fishing and tinkering on clocks and any small engine. He loved gardening and music, along with his little dog, Thor. He had many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Pass Creek Park in Curtin on his birthday, Sunday, April 9 from 1-5 p.m. All who knew Jon, friends and family, are welcome to attend.

Fourth grader Brooke Burtowski attends Charlotte Latin School in Charlotte North Carolina and is working on a school project about Oregon. She and classmates are contacting news organizations around the country asking residents to send post cards, maps, newspaper articles and general information about their state to better help them with their projects. Materials can be sent to: Mrs. Dodd's Class, Charlotte Latin School at 9502 Providence Rd. Charlotte NC, 28277.

## BIRTHS

Tara and Ben Blount of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby girl on March 19 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Kelsey and Adam Dimock of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on March 20 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Ami and Jacob Jones of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby girl on March 20 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Erica and Matt Seckler of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on March 22 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

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SHE SMILES FOR  
the future for  
SHE KNOWS  
WHO HOLDS  
HER FUTURE.

## Frances Ball 1936-2017

Frances Ball a long-time resident of Cottage Grove, OR went home into eternity with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the morning of March 23rd.

Frances was born at home June 17, 1936 in Itasca, Texas to Thomas Albert and Sarah Pearl Dennis. She was the sixth born of seven children.

On December 10, 1977 she married Roland (Lanny) Ball and the two of them owned and operated Franny's Country Home, a licensed home for the elderly in Yoncalla, OR. After retiring in 2005 and selling the beloved farm the two settled in Cottage Grove. She was a long time member of South Lane Christian Center and most recently Old Time Gospel Fellowship. She loved her garden in the summer that produced squash and watermelon, windmills and sheep. She was a compassionate and giving person who cared deeply for people who had fallen on hard times, even at times taking complete strangers into her home to feed, clothe and shelter them. She was an amazing wife, daughter, mama, grandma, great grandma, great-great grandma, aunt and friend.

She is survived by her husband, Lanny, of 39 years son Randy Rape (Denise) of Creswell, daughter, Debra Tennis (Joe) of Cottage Grove, daughter, Kimberly Sabin (Dan) of Cottage Grove, brother, Bill Dennis and sister, Barbara Dennis of Cottage Grove, many cherished grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her Daddy and Mama, brothers Jess, James, and Bobby; sister Sally and grandson Derrick.

A funeral service and potluck reception will be held Saturday April 1st, 2017 at 1:00 pm at Living Faith Assembly located at 467 S 10th St. in Cottage Grove.

In lieu of flowers the family asks you make a donation to The Eugene Mission or St Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Frances Ball.

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