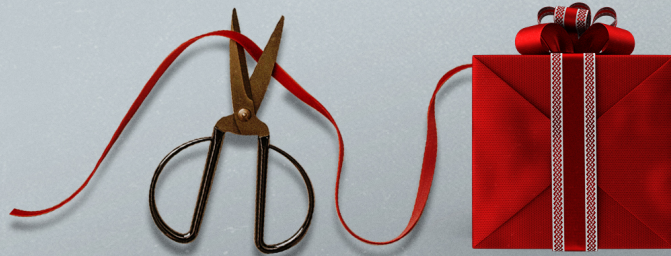


NO STRINGS ATTACHED



Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

Assurance & Rewards

Assurance

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

John 5:24

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but has eternal life.

John 3:16

Rewards

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

Revelation 22:12

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor homosexuals, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

God wants us to desire rewards.

KEY POINT:

It is not seeking pleasure in life that causes us problems, it is where we seek our pleasure.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

...hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6:17

1. GOD CREATED US TO PURSUE PLEASURE

You're only going to do what God wants you to do, IF you believe God pays better dividends than the world pays. Nobody is going to do something for nothing.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has even conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

1) Pursuing pleasure is not the same as having fun.

2) Pursuing pleasure requires discipline and sacrifice.

He [Moses] was looking ahead to his reward.

Hebrews 11:26

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

2. WORLDLY PLEASURE IS FLEETING AND WILL NOT FULFILL

I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good."

Ecclesiastes 2:1

2:2 laughter

2:3 drinking

2:4 work and accomplishments

2:7 servants

2:8 incredible wealth

2:8 best entertainers

2:8 sex

2:12 wisdom and intellectual pursuits.

2:10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.

So I hated life... All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17

3. LASTING PLEASURE IS FOUND ONLY IN GOD

Our quest is not merely joy, it's joy in God. Our quest is not simply pleasure, it's finding pleasure in God.

"A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?"

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

Delight yourself in the Lord.

Psalms 37:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4 (KJV)