

# *Let's Be Cheerful*

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Did you know the Bible says to be cheerful? My preacher taught us about that today, and I think it is an important lesson for all of us to remember!

The things of the world should not be the things that cause us to be cheerful. Though we have many things He has given us to enjoy, the material things should not be the main things in our lives that make us happy.

The main Scripture he began with was Matthew 9:2, which says, "And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." Jesus told the man to be of good cheer, NOT because he was going to be healed of the

palsy, but because his sins were forgiven! His sins being forgiven was more important than him being able to be healed and walk! We should be cheerful to God because Jesus died on the cross, and our sins are now forgiven!

I am not perfect, and I know I am just 11 years old, but I warn you not to be so cheerful over the worldly things, but be cheerful for all the ways God has blessed your life. Mainly, be cheerful because your sins are forgiven; because Jesus has saved you from your sins! I am still young, and have been baptized, but I know I still cheer for the worldly things because I am not perfect. God is not pleased when we are mainly thinking about worldly things!

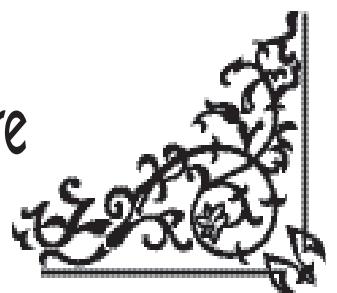
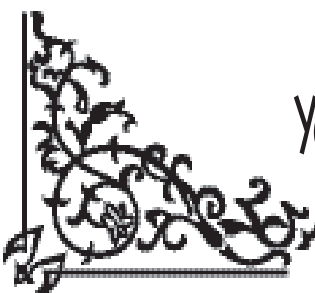
We should be cheerful to the Lord our God and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Be thankful and cheerful to Jesus because He died on the cross of Calvary and saved us from our sins! If He did not save you, then you would have no hope of ever going to the eternal heaven, and would not be able to enter the kingdom of heaven now! The reason that is true is because we are all sinners! I love the song, "Jesus thou art the sinner's friend...." That explains it all!

We should be cheerful and thankful just to be alive! If it was not for God, we would not be here. He is the one Who keeps us alive every day. Be cheerful when you wake up, and be cheerful when you go to sleep! Just pray right now and tell God how cheerful you are. Tell Him how cheerful you are that He is taking care of you every day!

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# A Test For Spiritual Strength

- A. **Bible Reading** -- "These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)
1. Do you own a Bible?
    - a. yes
    - b. no
  2. Do you read your Bible?
    - a. nearly every day
    - b. once or twice a week
    - c. hardly ever
  3. Do you try to memorize scriptures?
    - a. often
    - b. sometimes
    - c. hardly ever
- B. **Prayer** -- "Pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17). "...men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" (Luke 18:1)
1. Do you pray?
    - a. once a day or more
    - b. fairly often
    - c. hardly ever
  2. Do you ask God for guidance in your daily decisions?
    - a. most of the time
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
  3. Do you pray for your family, friends and neighbors?
    - a. most of the time
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
- C. **Preparation for Church Services** "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God..." (Ecclesiastes 5:1). "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1).
1. Do you make any special efforts on Saturday to be ready for church on Sunday?
    - a. most of the time
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
  2. Do you spend time in Bible reading, prayer or meditation before going to church on Sunday?
    - a. nearly every Sunday
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
  3. The time we arrive at the meeting house often reveals our real interest or spiritual preparation for the worship service. Which best describes you?
    - a. among the first to be at church
    - b. arrive at the same time as most
    - c. among the last to arrive
- D. **Attention to the Gospel** -- "Take heed therefore how ye hear..." (Luke 8:18). "...they received the word with all readiness of mind..." (Acts 17:11).
1. Do you pray for God to bless the worship services and to bless the minister to bring the word in the power of the spirit?
    - a. most of the time
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
  2. Do you listen carefully and try to do what is taught by the minister?
    - a. most of the time
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
  3. Do you find yourself coming up with excuses as to why you cannot or should not do what the minister suggests in his sermons?
    - a. very often
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
- E. **Use of Your Time** -- "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27).
1. Do you spend more time watching T.V. than you spend Bible reading, praying, and visiting combined?
    - a. yes
    - b. no
  2. Do you visit the widows, sick, shut-ins and others who may have special problems in the church or neighborhood?
    - a. often
    - b. some of the time
    - c. hardly ever
  3. Do you find that you hardly ever give any of your time to anyone else besides yourself and your immediate family?
    - a. yes
    - b. no

**Results of this Test** -- There is only One who is really qualified to give you a grade on this test, and He is GOD! He has been grading you all along. Your present degree of spirituality is a result of how you have kept His commandments. If in your heart you feel that you don't measure up as you would like, perhaps this little test will give you some thoughts on how you may better serve the Lord. He will bless you with strength and power as you walk closer to Him in the paths of righteousness.