Always be full of joy (full of pleasure and happiness) in the Lord, I say it again – rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

How to Live “Happily Ever After” Now
MADE FOR HAPPINESS
Philippians

1. I must recognize the source of Happiness, God Himself. God is happy.

Then God looked over all he had made, and He saw that it was very good! ...And God blessed (to be filled with happiness) the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when He rested from all his work of creation. This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:31-2:1-3 (NLT)

2. I need to recognize He wants His kids happy. He wants me happy.

So God created human beings in His own image. In the image (likeness) of God He created them...Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

Happiness twisted...

“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious,
and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. *Genesis 3:5-6 (NLT)*

3. He provided a way to **re-engage** in His happiness. He wants me to live **happily** now.

*The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*  **John 10:10 (NLT)**

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.” (fruitful life) ... “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love...I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”  **John 15:5, 9 &11 (NLT)**

Jesus said “...come share in your Master’s happiness...”  **Matt. 25:23 (NIV)**

4. I must learn how to stay in **His** happiness.

... I say it again—**rejoice!** ... **Don’t worry** about anything; instead, **pray** about everything. **Tell God what you need**, and **thank Him** for all He has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. **His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus... Philippians 4:4, 6-7 (NLT)**

**Going deeper on your own:** In this week’s message Pastor Jay said, “It is not a sin to be happy.” What is your reaction when you hear that statement? He also stated, “God actually wants His children to be happy now.” Do you agree or disagree? We learned that “God is happy”, how does that register with what you have understood about God? Now, read the book of Philippians and underline each time you see the word **joy, rejoice, glad, gladness, happy or happiness.** Look at each verse and see what Paul was referring to in each of those occasions. Read Ephesians 5:1 and Luke 15:10, has there ever been a time when there was great joy in heaven because you gave your life to Jesus Christ? If not, do it today. Invite Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior and let the party begin. Begin the journey of living “Happily Ever After” today!