

“The Greeks had a word for the feeling one has when one is happy: makarios. It is a feeling of contentment, when one knows one’s place in the world and is satisfied with that place.” - Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible by E. Randolph Richards, Brandon J. O'Brien

1. A comfortable acceptance of life [Deuteronomy 29:29 “The hidden things belong to the LORD our God, but the revealed”; Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. things belong to us and our children forever, so that we may follow”;]
2. Acceptance of others (unprejudiced) [“Do not plot evil in your hearts against your neighbor,”; Galatians 6:2 “Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”; Romans 16:7 “accept one another, just as Christ also accepted you”]
3. A love for nature- what God provides. [Genesis 2:15 “The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.”; James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father”]
4. Single-minded, non hypocritical, natural and spontaneous [Romans 12:9 “Let love be without hypocrisy”; 2 Timothy 1:5 “I recall your sincere faith”; 1 Corinthians 5:8 “let us observe the feast, not ... with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”; 2 Corinthians 2:17 we do not market the word of God for profit ... “we speak with sincerity in Christ, as from God and before God”]
5. People are not problems; people have problems [Ephesians 4:28 “Let the thief no longer steal”; 2 Corinthians 12:21 “ I will grieve for many who sinned before and have not repented”; Galatians 6:1 “ if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit”]
6. Increased desire for privacy to meditate, dream, “pray,” create [Psalm 1:1 “How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!”; 91:1 “The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty.”; Matthew 5⁶ ““But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret.”]
7. Environmental independence: can work, live, enjoy life anywhere. Socially independent. [Philippians 4:11 “ I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself.”; Matthew 5:12 “Be glad and rejoice”]
8. Fresh emotional responses to life, deep feelings, especially of joy. [John 4:14 “I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him”; 10:10 “I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”]
9. A deep sense of belonging, family, part of something “bigger” [Romans 8:15 “you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!”; Galatians 4:6 “God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!”; Philippians 3:20 “our citizenship is in heaven”]
10. A keen awareness of others: “empathetic understanding” to use Carl Roger’s phrase [John 11:35 “Jesus wept”; Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.”]
11. Meaningful friendships [John 15:15 “I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father.”; 1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”]
12. Appreciative of the contributions, successes, and achievements of others as adding to their well-being. [1 Corinthians 12:24 “God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable”; Ephesians 5:21 “submitting to one another in the fear of Christ”]
13. Strong ethical and moral principles [Exodus 20:1-17 the Ten Commandments; Philippians 4:8 “ if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy — dwell on these things.”]
14. Non-defensive, not easily offended, but accepting of the opinions and feelings of others; Non-hostile sense of humor. [1 Corinthians 13:5 “love is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.”; Galatians 4:12 “You have not wronged me”]
15. Creative, active ministry [1 Corinthians 12: 7, 11 “A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good ... One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills”]