



# Elf

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

## 1. Happiness is good, joy is better

- Happiness comes from circumstances
- Joy comes from God and doesn't fade

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” **Luke 2:13-15 NLT**

## 2. Experiencing joy in the middle of real life

<sup>20</sup> I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. <sup>21</sup> It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. <sup>22</sup> So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. **John 16:20-22 NLT**

<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38-39 NLT**

### Next Steps:

- Meditate (pray, sing, contemplate, give thanks) on God’s great gift of salvation through Jesus to help my perspective on life
- Focus on Jesus’ love and birth this Christmas season and not let troubling circumstances steal my joy
- Commit to keep close to God so that I can experience daily joy in life
- \_\_\_\_\_