

Pope Francis - a Meditation

You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you. Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments.

To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity.

Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life.

Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified. It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us.

To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple.

It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes".

It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry".

It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you".

It is to have the ability to say "I love you".

May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness ...

that in spring may it be a lover of joy,

in winter a lover of wisdom.

And when you make a mistake, start all over again.

For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance.

Use your losses to train patience.

Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity.

Use pain to plaster pleasure.

Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence.

Never give up Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show. Amen, Amen.

2020 - Pope Francis: The Year of The Word of God.

The world in which we are called to be Christ's witnesses has much in common with the world in which the apostles began to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen. St. Jerome who translated the Bible into Latin in the early part of the fifth century from a cave in Bethlehem said: *"If there is anything in life that sustains a wise person and helps to maintain serenity amid the tribulations and adversaries of the world, it is first and foremost the meditation on and knowledge of the Scriptures."*

Following on that statement, you are asked to consider these questions and answer them if you wish, in your own thoughts.

1. *Do you agree with any of these statements issued jointly by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, that during the last fifty years:*
[a] Catholics have learned more than ever to cherish the Bible.
[b] We have rediscovered the Bible as a special treasure both ancient and ever new.
[c] We have received so much from those who have dedicated their lives to making the Scriptures more accessible to us.
[d] To read the Scriptures regularly and prayerfully is to live constantly in the presence of Christ.

2. *When the Scriptures which are proclaimed at Mass are then broken open and explained in the homily, do you see their significance in your sitz im lebem [situation in life]:*
[a] often, [b] sometimes, [c] seldom or [d] never.

3. *Do you believe [a] that the Holy Spirit directed the human authors of the Books of the Bible and [b] do you believe that the Lectionary which provides us with the Readings used at Mass to present passages from the Bible, is also the work of the Holy Spirit acting through the Church.*

4. *The Church wishes to emphasise now more than ever before, the significance of the Word of God in the celebration of Mass. Would you rather the proclamation of Scripture was omitted from Mass?*

5. *Do you have a Bible at home, or a print of the New Testament, or a print of the four Gospels?*
6. *Do you take home each month a print of the My Day by Day booklet or of Bible Alive or of the Magnificat, all of which give the passages of Scripture for Mass?*
7. *Have you in your recent memory read a passage from the Bible - whether the Old Testament or the New Testament and used this as a resource for thought or prayer?*
8. *How would you describe your interest in the Scripture passages which are presented to you by being proclaimed at Mass and then broken open during the homily: [a] I'm not at all interested; [b] I wish I understood more about it or [c] I don't think this question is important in my own spiritual life.*

Bible reading for all - paragraph 80 of the booklet called The Gift of Scripture issued by the Bishops Joint Conferences in 2005:

A further significant and welcome development in recent times has been the proliferation of Groups of people who gather around the Bible to read and to study and to pray.

Biblical formation and resources: - paragraph 81 - *In order to support, guide and promote deeper knowledge and love of the Scriptures, resources of all kinds have been produced. More than anything else, suitable editions of the Bible need to be made available [to Catholics] with introductions and explanatory notes for each Book.*