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### **The Road To Happiness**

*"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." 1 Timothy 6:6-8*

I read this excerpt from the Introduction to the book *The Road To Happiness* by Mac Anderson and BJ Gallagher. Take a look at what Mac Anderson says he learned from a taxi driver:

When I travel on business, I like to talk to the taxi drivers who take me from the airport to my hotel, or to a convention center, or to a restaurant. Taxi drivers are often immigrants with interesting personal histories and unusual cultural backgrounds. I ask them how long they've been in America, how they chose which city to live in, and what they like best about where they live. Of course, I also ask them for advice on good local restaurants and any special attractions they'd recommend to a visitor. I've had some great experiences on my travels, thanks to the advice of taxi drivers!

On one trip about ten years ago, I was making conversation with the taxi driver, asking him my usual questions about how he came to live where he lived. Then I asked him a hypothetical question: "If you could live anywhere in the world—and if money was no object—where would you live?"

Without hesitating even for a second, he replied, "I live in my heart. So it really doesn't matter where my body lives. If I am happy inside, then I live in Paradise, no matter where my residence is."

I felt humbled and a little foolish for my question. Of course he was right—happiness is an inside job. He had reminded me of something I already knew, but had forgotten. If you can't find happiness inside yourself, you'll never find it in the outside world, no matter where you move. Wherever you go, there you are. You take yourself with you.

This is one taxi driver who had learned a great lesson in living. It seems that many people today think that the world owes them something. They are never content no matter how much stuff they amass. Benjamin Franklin said, "*The U.S. Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up to it yourself.*" If we think that things are going to make us happy, we are mistaken. I have often heard it said that happiness is not a destination at which we arrive one day; rather happiness is a mode of traveling. No amount of money or possessions has the power to make you happy. Happiness is within us, not outside of us. Where are you looking for your happiness?

*"He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he."*  
Proverbs 16:20