

The Happiness Code

Week 17 – Live Out Your Calling
(Part 2)

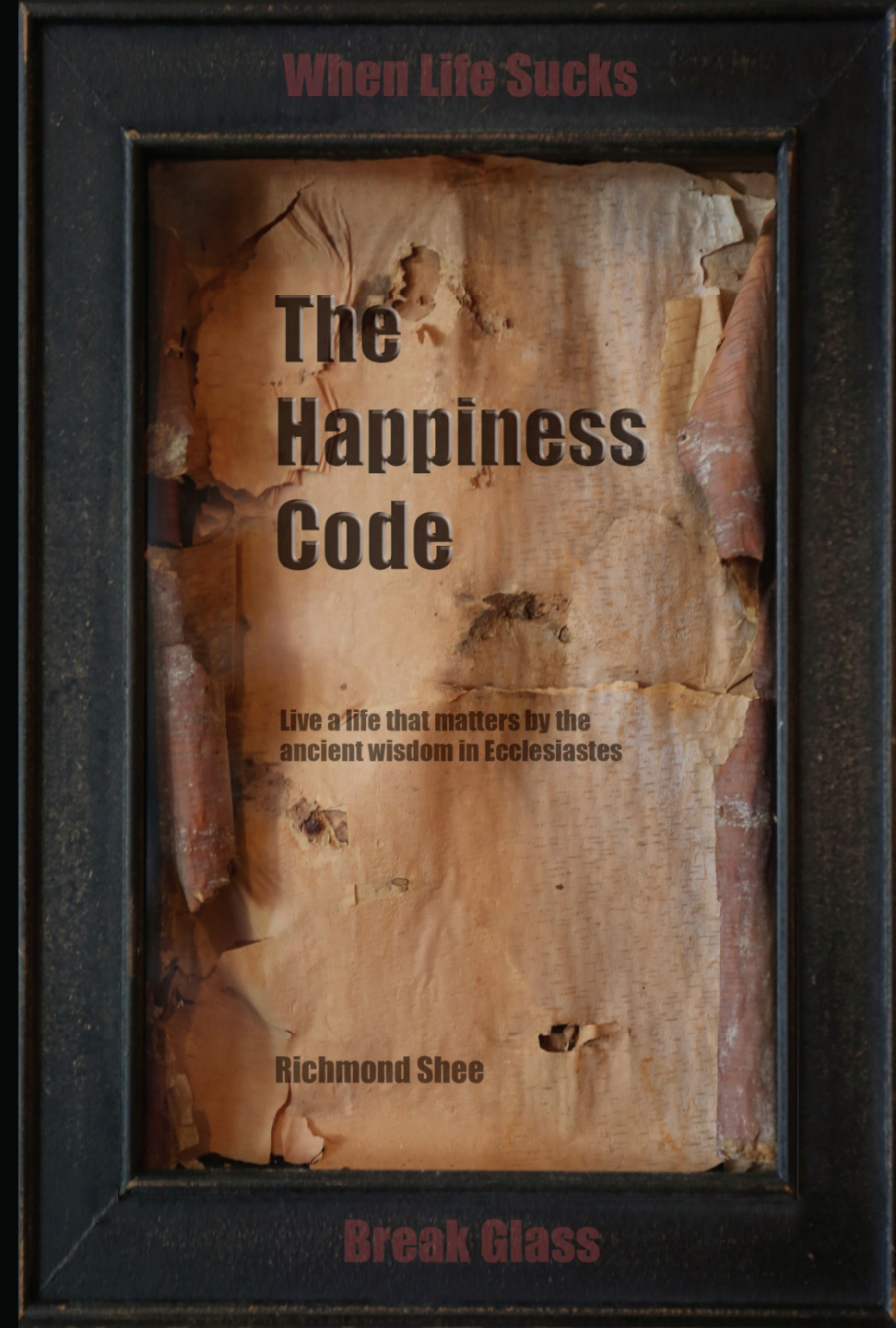
Ecclesiastes 11:7 –
Ecclesiastes 12:7



Week #17: Level Set

Imagine hearing these words when you stand before the Lord,
“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

Now imagine hearing these words,
“Thou wicked and slothful servant.”



Week #17: Level Set

A call to fulfill the Great Commission:

- Fulfill our duty to God before His judgment falls upon sinners – Ecc 11:1-6
- Fulfill our duty to God before the infirmities of old age fall upon us – Ecc 11:7 thru Ecc 12:7



Ecc 11:7 Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: (8) But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.



- I write unto you fathers...
 - Life is good and enjoyable.
 - Don't get carried away with the good days or good life, because they are finite.
- Counsel: "Remember the days of darkness..."
Keep death at the forefront of our mind, especially in the stage of sweetness of life, where everything goes our way.
Job 10:20 Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little, (21) Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death; (22) A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.
- Don't go to the grave without dutifully fulfilling the Great Commission.

Ecc 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy **youth**; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. (10) Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for **childhood** and **youth** are vanity.



- I write unto you young men...
 - Young man – boyhood to manhood.
- Last sarcasm in Ecclesiastes.
- Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- Pr 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.
- Ecc 1:8 All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecc 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy **youth**; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. (10) Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for **childhood** and **youth** are vanity.



Guidelines for living an enjoyable and happy life in the days of youth:

- God is always watching and will hold you accountable for all your actions.
 - Your enjoyments must be lawful and biblical, otherwise, the authorities and God will hunt you down, and life will not be fun.
- The time of youth is characterized by HOPLOD.
 - Quick to anger, combative, and addicted to youthful lusts.
 - Put away anger and sin, because they are enemies to your enjoyment.
- Childhood and youth are vanity; the time is very short. To maximize enjoyment, you must do it the right way. Don't get into trouble with God and human authorities.

Ecc 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;



The common word in Solomon's admonition is "remember."

- Mature people – remember death.
- Young people – remember your Creator.

Ecc 12:1-7 divide beautifully into three sections:

- Remember and serve God in the days of your youth – Ecc 12:1.
- Remember and serve God before you circle the drain – Ecc 12:2-5.
- Remember and serve God before you die – Ecc 12:6-7.

Ecc 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Remember and serve God in the days of thy youth.

- For the Creator-creature relationship.
- For the reason of your existence.
- For your duty to Him.
- Because you will drift.
- While there is hope for you.
- When?
 - In the days of thy youth...
 - Before the affliction of evil days when God visits your sins.
 - Before “the years draw nigh” or old age, when you are crippled and constrained, and debilitating pains are your closest companions.



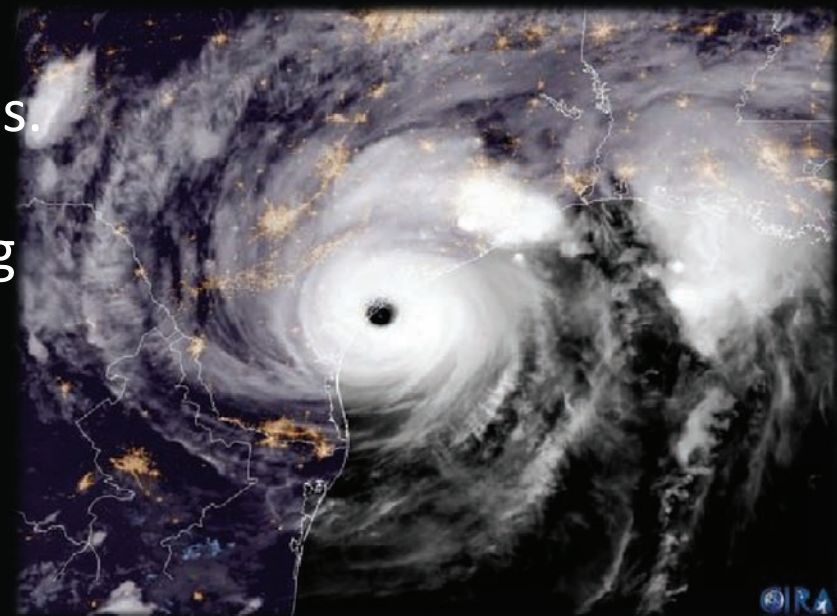
Ecc 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened,
nor the clouds return after the rain:



Remember and serve God before you circle the drain.

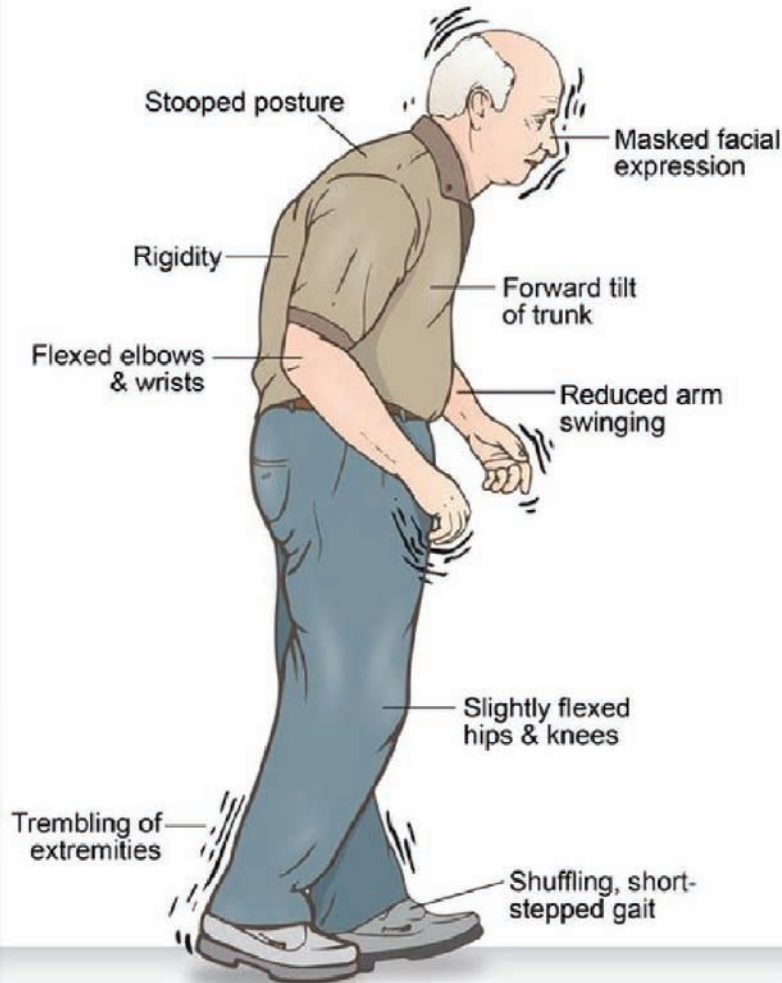
Serve God before your **glory** turns **gloom**;

- Before your cognitive function fails.
- Before brain disease as Alzheimer's or dementia cause you to lose your marbles.
- Before death approaches like a terrifying storm with no end in sight.



Ecc 12:3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

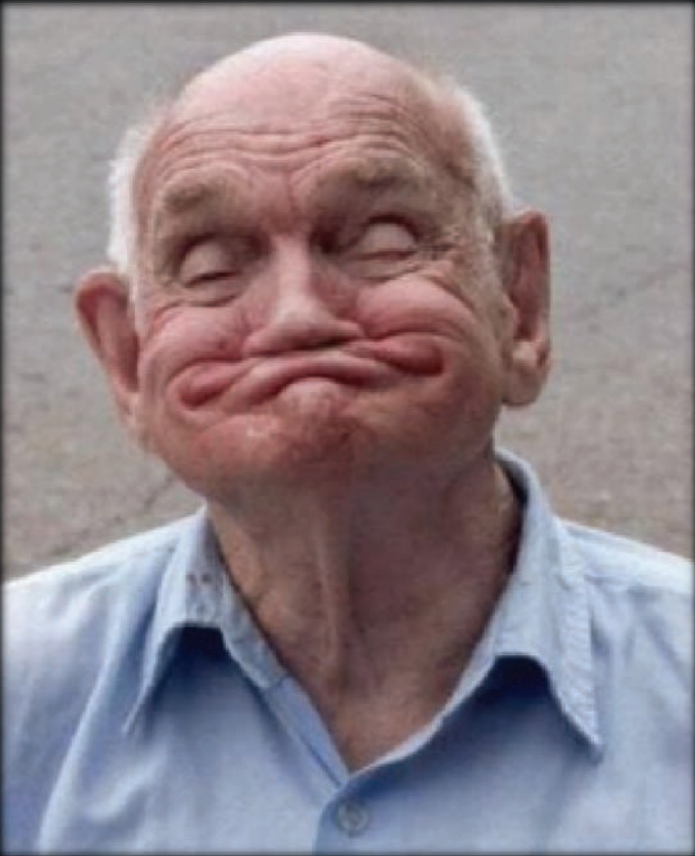
Typical appearance of Parkinson's disease



Serve God before your physical **strength** turns **sloppy**.

- Before the Parkinson's disease destroys your nervous system and cause your hands and legs (keepers of the house) to tremble uncontrollably.
- Before osteoporosis sets in and your body can no longer do and bear the work of ministry.
- Before gingivitis or periodontitis destroys gum tissues and bones, and take away your teeth and the ability to chow down.
- Before cataract blurs your vision.

Ecc 12:4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;



Serve God before your **enjoyment** turns **embarrassment**.

- Before you are unable to enjoy solid food.
- Before you lose restful sleeps due to various kinds of pains.
- Before you struggle to enunciate words or lose your hearing.

Ecc 12:5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:



Serve God before your **stability** turns **shakiness**, when you are afraid of falling.

Ecc 12:5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:



Serve God before your **desire** turns **distaste**.

- Asians and middle Easterners go nuts after almonds.
- The white blossoms represent hoary heads of old age. The distresses associated with decrepit old age kill appetites and desires.
- Grasshoppers are also a delicacy in the East. But the distresses of old age cause such a delicacy to not sit well in stomach.

Ecc 12:5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:



Serve God before you go from the **old folks' home** to the **long home**.

- Don't be a spiritually fruitless old person, because the next phase in life is death.
- **Job 17:13 If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness. Job 30:23 For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.**

Ecc 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

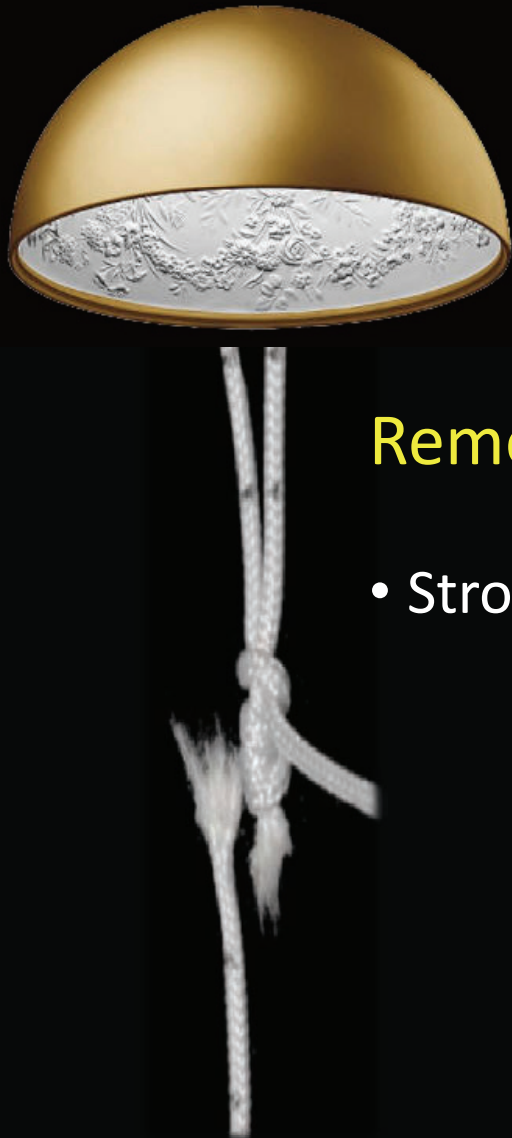


Remember and serve God before you die.

- Two metaphors of death.



Ecc 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.



Remember and serve God before you die.

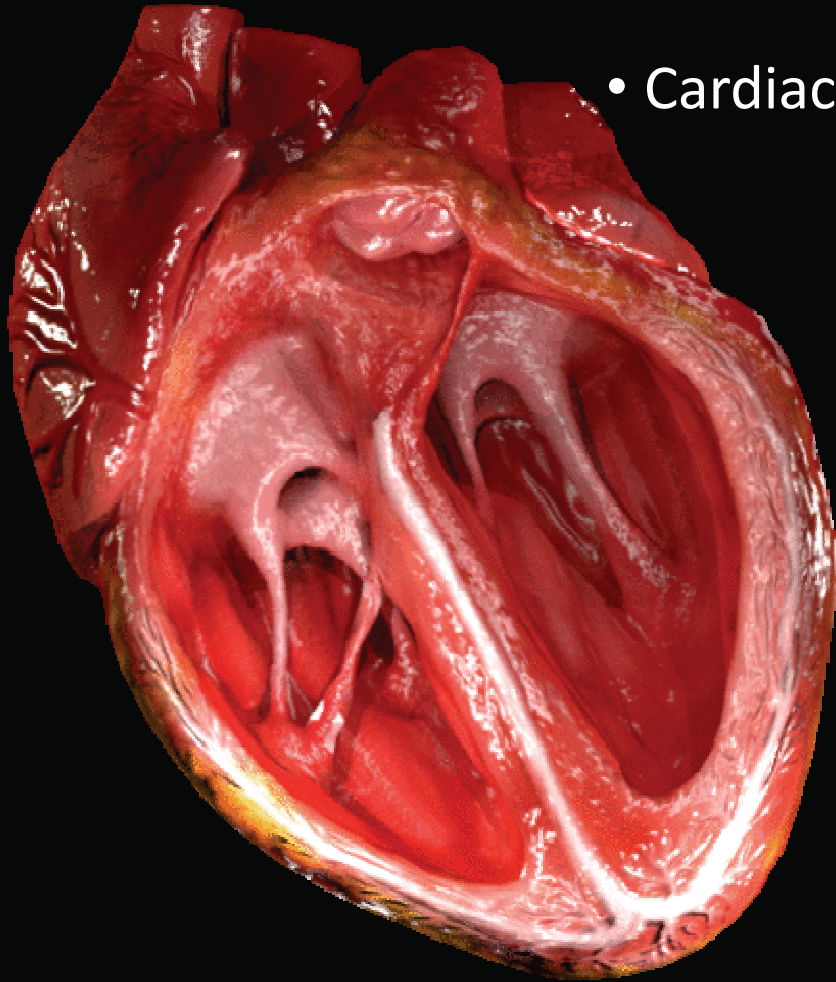
- Stroke or bone marrow cancer may be the COD.



Ecc 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Remember and serve God before you die.

- Cardiac arrest may be the COD.



Saved By Grace

Someday the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But, oh, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

Chorus:
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.

Someday my earthly house will fall;
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be;
But this I know—my All in All
Has now a place in heav'n for me.

Someday, when fades the golden sun
Beneath the rosy tinted west,
My blessed Lord will say, "Well done!"
And I shall enter into rest.

Someday: till then I'll watch and wait,
My lamp all trimmed and burning bright,
That when my Savior opens the gate,
My soul to Him may take its flight.

You have been illuminated to these truths:

1. Mature people: Remember **death** that shall come upon you.
2. Young people: Remember **thy Creator** in the days of thy youth.
3. Fulfill your duty to God before His **judgment** falls upon sinners.
4. Fulfill your duty to God before the **infirmities of old age** fall upon you.

Notes:

- The key to hearing the praise of God is to live out our calling. This life is a 70-year boot camp that prepares us to meet our Savior at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Let us not faint in the work of ministry and let us bring in the sheaves to meet Him.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com