**A.L.O.H.Ā. - Happy & All Things**

*The Happy Purpose of Aloha*

Alooohaaaa!

**Matt Blevins** called me a few days ago, concerned about Lahaina.  We prayed for each other, he prayed, “***I pray your breath over him...***"

It made me happy.  It lifted my spirit!

Today is about **H for Happy**, and **A for All Things**.

(Pray)

This series we have been examining …

* The **meaning** of ALOHA
* The deep **significance** of Aloha.
* A – Air Share
* L – Love
* O – Offering (to God and to others)

Today we finish up the series – **H** for Happy, and **A** for All Things

Widespread Misunderstanding among American Christians

I will be using terms like happiness, joy, blessed, gladness,

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**Is there a Difference Between Happiness and Joy?**

It is common today to hear believers speak of a difference between joy and happiness. The teaching usually makes the following points: 1) Happiness is a feeling, but joy is not. 2) Happiness is fleeting, but joy is everlasting. 3) Happiness depends on circumstances or other people, but joy is a gift from God. 4) Happiness is worldly, but joy is divine. But there is no such distinction made in Scripture, and forcing a distinction between two words that are so obviously close in meaning is unnecessary…

Joy is often presented as “true” contentment based on faith. Happiness, in contrast, is often thought of as “false” or “superficial” emotion dependent on circumstances. But this is a false dichotomy. There is nothing in the Bible that suggests we divorce joy from happiness. The two are equal.

~ GotQuestions.org

I won’t take the time to prove this from the Bible. But I urge you to go home and read the Bible and do a word study.

The question is NOT, “what’s the difference between joy and happiness and blessing, and gladness, comfort, peace.

The question is, what is the ***source*** of joy and happiness and blessing, and gladness, comfort, peace.

God is the eternal source, but you and I play a part in that Happiness.

 Review of how God’s Love works…

**1 John 4:**

* **God is love** (v.8)
* **Love comes from God** (v.7)
* **We love because** **God first loved us**. (v.19)
* **Love (God Himself) is perfected in us when we love one another** (v.12)

(*gasp* – this is where it becomes obvious to me how far short I fall)

I have been following this pattern through most of the sermons on love.

* Start with God and His love
* How can we love one another?

**H - Happy**

**God’s breath to us; God’s Aloha to Us**

* The **vertical** dimension

God is the ultimate source of Happiness.

He is above circumstances.

God’s very presence brings happiness to our souls:

* **Psalm 16:11** – You make known to me the path of life;
    in your presence there is fullness of joy;
    at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
* **1 Peter 1:3-6**

**3**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4**to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5**who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6**In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials…

We could go on and on…

* **Treasures** in heaven…
* **Affirmation** - Well done, good and faithful servant…
* **Comfort** –
* **Incomparable future** glory - Present suffering is not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed in us.
* **Resurrected bodies** – immortal, imperishable, incorruptible, glorified.
* **New Creation** in Christ
* **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.
* **Holy Spirit in you** is a deposit, earnest guaranteeing our inheritance.

All of this (and more) provides you with an eternal source of happiness!

So, Because love begins with God, Happiness begins with God.

Here is where I **blow the lid off**:

Now **God calls us to be like Him!**

* As He is the source of Happiness to us,
* He calls **us** to be a source of happiness to others.

This brings us to the second half of the H for Happiness:

**Our Aloha to One Another and to the World**

* The **horizontal** dimension

Our call, command to love one another is a call to breathe happiness to others.

**2 Corinthians 1:8-11** - We despaired, even of life … you helped us by your prayers.

**1 Corinthians 16:8** – For they refreshed our spirits as well as yours.

Make no apologies for offering God’s Aloha to others.

In an earlier sermon gave out a long list of things that God has called us to do for one another:

* Love one another.
* Encourage One another
* Build one another up.
* Honor one another.
* Put others first.
* Consider the interests of others.
* Greet one another with a holy kiss.

People are struggling, gasping for their next breath of emotional air, and we often keep a lid on the role God gives us to bring a bit of ALOHA to them.

The **Happy** in this sermon is about what **we** can do to bring God’s Happiness to others – i.e. uplift another’s spirits as we have opportunity.

Let’s just take one, today:

**Greet one another with a holy kiss.**

* Greeting acknowledges the existence of another person.
* It says, *You are valuable*. *You show up on my radar*.
* I am happy to see you!
* Even better if you use their name.
* People may be self-conscious, but the worst thing is for no one to notice them – or *act* like they don’t notice them.

🡪All of these bring happiness to another!

Greeting has many other connotations:

* Sure, you’ve sinned, but I love you!
* Sure, you messed up, but I forgive you!

**Mutually** is so crucial!

Air *Share*

Here is an odd thing to think about:

* You might not be able to pull yourself up by your own boot straps.
* But through ALOHA you can pull one another up by each other’s bootstraps!

**Illus**: The other week I was talking to a friend, and as we were sharing various stuff, each of us had some burdens on our hearts. We listened to each other (air share). We expressed care (aloha). We prayed for each other. At the end we both shared how uplifting the time was!

Did we fix the problem in each other’s lives? No.

But we gave each other a **spiritual hug**, And lifted each other up.

The H in ALOHA is both Vertical and Horizontal.

**All Things**

**Col 1:13-20**

**13**For he has **rescued** us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he loves**, **14in whom** we have redemption, the **forgiveness of sins**.

**15**The **Son** is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16**For *in him* **all things** were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things** have been created through him and for him. **17**He is before **all things**, and in him **all things** hold together. **18**And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in **everything** he might have the supremacy. **19**For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20**and through him to reconcile to himself **all things**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

This is God’s eternal ALOHA, inviting us to His eternal purposes.

* Invitation
* (Pray)