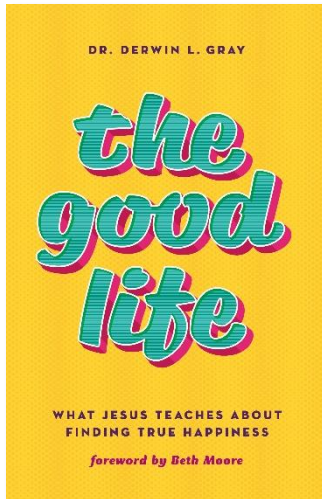


# Derwin Gray, Former NFL Player and Current Pastor of Transformation Church on True Happiness and How You Can Find It!



Everyone wants to be happy. We spend money, time, and energy chasing after “the good life,” and we run ourselves into physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion on the way. But what if the happiness we’re all striving for isn’t the happiness we were created for?

Derwin Gray well understands the pursuit of “the good life.” He spent years trying to find lasting happiness only to discover it was like chasing his shadow. In this new book, ***The Good Life*** (B&H Publishing), he explores the path to true happiness—a life lived with Jesus, embracing the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Gray believes that as you walk through these verses you will discover a new life-giving rhythm that cultivates a flourishing happy, transformative life.

“This book has the most solid teaching on happiness I’ve ever read. Not only is this message helpful but it’s also refreshingly honest and carefully researched. This is wisdom I’ve personally seen Pastor Derwin live out both

through these pages and in everyday life,” says Lysa TerKeurst, New York Times bestselling author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries.

Gray believes that through the Beatitudes, Jesus invites us to experience his kind of happiness, as citizens in his kingdom. It’s a picture of how God’s people, under his rule and reign of grace, should live on earth. As he encourages readers to explore the words of Jesus, Gray delves deeper into each Beatitude and reveals the shocking, countercultural path to thriving. A path that comes not through wealth, fame, or laughter but poverty, obscurity, and mourning.

With a chapter dedicated to each Beatitude, he discusses:

- Happy are the beggars
- Happy are the sad
- Happy are the humble
- Happy are the hungry and thirsty
- Happy are the merciful
- Happy are the pure
- Happy are the peacemakers
- Happy are the persecuted

***The Good Life*** is about experiencing happiness that goes beyond the surface of your circumstances to the depths of your soul. “The deeper we immerse ourselves in Jesus and his kingdom the more we are supernaturally sculpted into his image, and the happier we will become,” says Gray. The pursuit of the good life will let you down, but the pursuit of the God life will lead to joy.

“From the great sermon in history comes the greatest words on happiness. Jesus’ famous beatitudes have blessed millions upon millions of people who have searched for true and lasting joy. My friend Derwin Gray masterfully unpacks the words of Christ with the skill of a scholar and the heart of a pastor. The result is a book that will bless a generation that is hungry for the happiness of heaven,” says Max Lucado, Preaching Minister of Oak Hills Church and author.

Also available from Gray, ***The Good Life Bible Study*** (B&H Publishing), an 8-session small group study that demonstrates how Jesus taught us to search for, find, and hold on to the good life.



## About the Author

**Dr. Derwin L. Gray** is the founding and lead pastor of Transformation Church, a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community in Indian Land, South Carolina, just south of Charlotte, North Carolina. Gray met his wife, Vicki, at Brigham Young University (BYU). They have been married since 1992 and have two adult children. After graduating from BYU, he played professional football in the NFL for five years with the Indianapolis Colts and Carolina Panthers.

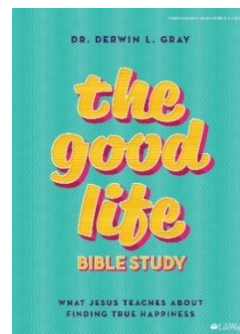
In 2008, Gray graduated from Southern Evangelical Seminary magna cum laude with a Master of Divinity, with a concentration in Apologetics. While there, he was mentored by renowned theologian and philosopher Dr. Norman Geisler. In 2018, Gray received his Doctor of Ministry in the New Testament in Context at Northern Seminary under Dr. Scot McKnight. In 2015, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Southern Evangelical Seminary. Gray is the author of “Hero: Unleashing God’s Power in a Man’s Heart” (2009), “Limitless Life: You Are More Than Your Past When God Holds Your Future” (2013), “Crazy Grace for Crazy Times Bible Study” (2015) and “The High-Definition Leader” (2015).

## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Tell us about *The Good Life*? What prompted you to write it at this particular time?
- Who do you envision reading this book?
- How is this different from other books (Christian and secular) about happiness?
- Tell us a little about childhood and the drive to succeed and find happiness?
- You are very transparent about your time in the NFL and search for happiness, only to discover it eluded you. Is it difficult to talk about those years share your struggles and vulnerabilities?
- Is there a Beatitude that is personally challenging for you?
- What is the difference between the happiness we strive for and what we were created for?
- What do you mean by saying “happiness and holiness are two sides of the same coin”?
- What are some ways that believers have misunderstood the Beatitudes, and how does your book address those?
- Tell us about the Happiness Manifesto and the Thirty-Day Happiness Challenge. What do you hope readers will gain from these and *The Good Life*?
- What can people do daily to experience this good life?



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**Leader Kit ISBN:** 978-1535994903  
**Leader Kit Price:** \$79.99  
**Bible Study Book ISBN:** 978-1535994897  
**Bible Study Book Price:** \$13.99

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## POSSIBLE INTERVIEW TOPICS

- The recent World Happiness report revealed that Americans are unhappier than they've been in years. America also dropped lower than it's ever been before in the ranking of the world's happiest countries. Even though it's clear that we're all chasing happiness, it seems we can't find it - but Derwin shows readers the true way to happiness. (<https://worldhappiness.report/ed/2019/>)
- As a former professional football player, Derwin speaks from experience as he shows readers that what American culture touts as "the good life" does not satisfy - rather, true satisfaction and a truly "good life" is found by embracing Jesus' teaching on the Beatitudes.
- "The Good Life" takes readers to the teachings of Jesus in the Beatitudes, showing that the happiness we are all exhausting ourselves to find is not as satisfying as the happiness we were created to receive.
- Derwin is a renowned author, speaker, and leader in the multiethnic church movement. He teaches regularly at Transformation Church, where he is the founder and lead pastor. He also regularly schedules speaking engagements and hosts the "Marinate on That" podcast, which garners more than 1,500 monthly listeners. He also daily reaches a social media audience of over 50,000.
- With the impending election season, divisiveness among Americans is more apparent than ever, and different candidates offer competing views of "the good life" for voters. Derwin shows readers how followers of Christ can be unified in the church and how Jesus offers a better life than any promoted by a political agenda.
- According to a study conducted by The University of Pennsylvania, almost 40 percent of people have not found their purpose in life yet, and 91 percent of people have experienced purpose anxiety at some point in their lives. "The Good Life" helps readers find their true, biblical purpose that will provide lasting joy and happiness. ([https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1061&context=mapp\\_capestone](https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1061&context=mapp_capestone))
- In an age where the search for happiness leads to more anxiety, depression, and burnout than ever, Derwin helps readers find lasting happiness and peace.