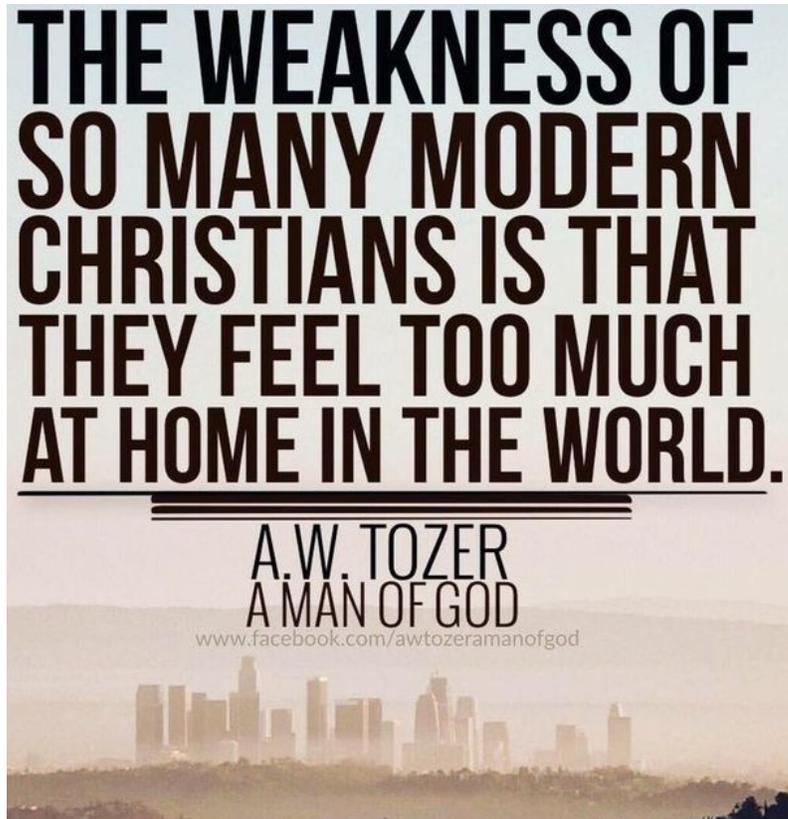




We have just finished our Power Camp with the kids at church last week. It was a great three days as we played soccer, basketball, as well as yoga and dance. Our theme was about being on a Team, God's Team and how that brings joy into our lives. We looked at Philippians 1 as we learnt about what joy is and where it comes from. Now you may be asking yourself why am I telling you this, well it's because when I look around today I don't see much joy on display in many Christians and I wonder why are they so unhappy? Why on earth is that the case? How is it that quite a few believers are struggling to experience joy that God promises to those who follow him. I find that strange. Now of course I know that there are many people who it's just in their nature to be sad and having or showing this joy is a real challenge for them. There are for sure many other reasons. Just look at young moms who are so tired due to sleepless nights and are totally exhausted. If that's the case it is hard to find joy in that moment. Or if you are grieving the loss of someone or just suffering at a certain point in your life, you often forget that God has specific joys for you in your present circumstance that can help you. But I would say that the most

miserable, sad, unhappy Christians I've seen are those who live with a foot in both worlds. You know what I mean, they hedge their bets. They have one eye on heaven and one on the world and what it has to offer. They say the right things, attend church on a regular basis, but they still try to find their meaning and value for living from the world with all its glitz and glamor. They're sitting on the fence and they're not happy at all.



I have to look at myself and ask, is that me and you need to ask yourself is that you? The only way to have joy is to be fully committed to God. Which by the way means saying "No" to the temptations that the world throws our way. Every bit of good in this world comes from God. We need to realize that nothing can possibly be good, really good unless it comes from God and if you as a Christian believes this truth then your life will be full of joy. You see joy is so much more than being happy. God is good and I have experienced that so many times in my life. David says in Psalm 16:11, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." If we are half-hearted Christians we cannot have ongoing joy that is found in following Jesus in our lives. We run after other gods to find fulfillment and joy, but in the end the only thing we find is sorrow and emptiness. That's why half-hearted Christians are not happy Christians. They can't be because they are not living life the way God intended it to be lived. We need to be in that right relationship with Christ so that others can see and experience the joy God brings to our lives. Hope in God, is what we need to build our foundation on. Hope in God is what others around us need to see. When we finally get to that place and that point in life we will be on the path that leads to joy and will attract others to walk along that path with you. A path that leads to God!