

Pr Mark Turner: Goals & Desires - Part 2 (8/2/20)

Introduction:

In Part 1 we learned that, according to scripture, the ultimate goal is to please God. But, according to the following verse, it is impossible to please God without faith.

Hebrews 11:5,6 - Enoch's goal was to please God. He achieved this goal through his faith. Without faith, Hebrews tells us, it isn't possible to live a life that is pleasing to God.

But what is faith? Sometimes we see living by faith as a kind-of ethereal reality. But, according to the Bible, to live by faith is far from mysterious - it is simply to live your life on the basis of what you believe.

For example, whenever we start our car, we are choosing to live out our belief that the vehicle will start once the key is turned.

Or, when we are driving through a set of traffic lights, we are choosing to believe that the light opposite our green light is red, and that those coming the other directions will follow the instructions of that light.

Faith Appraisal:

1. How successful am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would be more successful if...
2. How significant am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would be more significant if...
3. How fulfilled am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would be more fulfilled if...
4. How satisfied am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would be more satisfied if...
5. How happy am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would be happier if...
6. How secure am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would be more secure if...
7. How peaceful am I? 1 2 3 4 5
- I would have more peace if...

The answers that you give to this questionnaire demonstrate what you believe in - that is why it is called a 'faith appraisal.'

So let's analyse our faith a little by expanding and defining each of these categories.

1. Success:

Secular Definition: Attainment of wealth, fame or position.

Success is accepting God's goal for your life and by His grace becoming what He has called you to be (**Joshua 1:6-8; 2 Peter 1:3-10**).

Focussing on God's goal will lead to ultimate success in God's terms.

2. Significance:

Key concept: Time.

What is forgotten in time is of little significance; what is remembered for eternity is of greatest significance.

Ask yourself: will it matter 10 yrs from now? Will it matter in eternity?

If we want to increase our significance, we must focus our energies on significant activities: those that will last for eternity (**1 Corinthians 3:13,14; 1 Timothy 4:7,8**).

3. Fulfilment:

Key concept: Roles.

Our greatest fulfilment in life will come when we discover our unique gifts and abilities and use them to edify others and glorify the Lord. (**2 Corinthians 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Peter 4:10**).

God has a unique place of ministry for each of us. What are the roles God has given you that only you can do?

4: Satisfaction:

Key concept: Quality.

Satisfaction comes from living righteously and seeking to raise the level of quality in the relationships, services and products we're involved with. (**Matthew 5:6; Proverbs 18:24; 2 Timothy 4:7**).

5. Happiness:

Key concept: Contentment.

Happiness is being thankful rather than focusing on what you don't have. (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**).

The world's concept of happiness is having what we want. God's concept of happiness is wanting what we have. (**Philippians 4:12; 1 Timothy 6:6-8**).

6. Security:

Key concept: Relating to the eternal.

Insecurity comes when we depend on things that will pass away rather than things that will last forever.

The key to experiencing security in our lives is to depend on the things that are eternal, not temporal. (**Matthew 6:19-21; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:13,14**).

7. Peace:

Key concept: Internal order.

The key to experiencing peace is in understanding that it is primarily an internal issue. (**John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:15,16**).

- Peace on earth is what we want.
- Peace with God is something we already have.
- The Peace of God is something we need.