

# Trivial Pursuits

WHAT REALLY MAKES FOR A HAPPY LIFE?



- Our pursuits reveal an internal **void** in our lives.

Spiritual **needs** can't be satisfied by **temporary** things.

- When we pursue something more than God it becomes **idolatry**.

.. I the LORD your God, am a jealous God,... Exodus.20:5

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15 (ESV)

We tend to want a life that we design rather than a life that is **God-defined**.

**A counterfeit comfort reveals two things in us:**

- It reveals Spiritual **emptiness**.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15 (ESV)

For Christ's love compels us,... that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

God is most glorified in us when we are most **satisfied** in him.

- It eliminates our need of **faith**.

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

You can't pursue **comfort** and walk by **faith**.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NIV)

**How to experience authentic comfort:**

- Embrace divine **discomfort**.

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

God wants us to experience His presence in the midst of our **pain**.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

- Embrace that this isn't your **best life**

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Romans 8:18-19 (NLT)

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Matthew 16:25

Embrace the God of all comfort as your **source** of all comfort.

Don't set the affections of your heart on this world or in loving the things of the world. The love of the Father and the love of the world are incompatible. 1 John 2:15 (TPT)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Are there any "trivial pursuits" that are distractions in your life? Is Counterfeit Comfort a pursuit everyone deals with or do you think the American culture deals with it more? Why?
- How does a God-defined life threaten our comfort? Do you agree that you can't pursue comfort and walk by faith?
- How does pursuing comfort reveal spiritual emptiness? (According to 1 John 2:15)
- How does pursuing comfort eliminate our need for faith?
- What does it mean to embrace divine discomfort? Read James 1:2-4 & Romans 5:3-5
- How can we experience God in our pain?
- What does it mean to "embrace that this is not our best life"? Why do we have a difficult time accepting that as Christians we are called to suffer with Christ? What does that mean?
- What are some ways we can embrace the God of all comfort as our source of all comfort?

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Today's Talk..



"COMFORT"