

Studies in Contentment Handout

Lesson #6

A Faster “Turn Around Time”

Progress means getting nearer to the place you want to be. And, if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.”

- C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

The 8 Words of Paul on Which to Think:

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” *Philippians 4:8-9*

God’s Statement about Our Lack of Passion:

“They do not cry out to me from their hearts, but wail upon their beds.”

Hosea 7:14

A Statement with Passion for the Father’s Glory:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Jesus, *Matt. 22:37-38*

PURPOSE: n. "design, intention."

Paul realized that he had been created for God's design. He became focused solely on how his life would be used to help accomplish God's PURPOSES.

3. What do you think kept Paul focused, even though there were many troubles?

4. Using the same reasoning you utilized in Questions #2 (what keeps you focused) and #3 (God's design for YOU), **how can you use what you know and not what you feel** about a focused perspective and design for you, in order to help you see things differently in a difficult situation/relationship? What if you don't feel like it's working? What can the Holy Spirit tell you in those times?

(Your purpose and your needs are closely connected. We'll discuss "needs vs. desires" in the next lesson.)