

Devotion Info
Pursuing Pleasure

DAY 1 Read I Corinthians 2:9

"That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.'" NLT

- Do you struggle to believe God is concerned with your enjoyment (here, or in heaven)? If so, why?

DAY 2 Read Hebrews 12:2

"We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." NLT

- How might pursuing "the greater pleasure" require discipline and self-sacrifice?

DAY 3 Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-3

"I said to myself, 'Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life.' But I found that this, too, was meaningless. So I said, 'Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?' After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world." NLT

(If you have time, read the rest of Ecclesiastes 2)

- When does something God intended for our enjoyment become a "worldly pleasure?"

DAY 4 Read I Thessalonians 4:17-18

"Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words." NLT

- What encourages you about this passage? How can you encourage others with it?

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DAY 5 **Read Philippians 4:4**

"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!"

We don't often think of joy or cheer as being commanded by the Lord.

- Why do you think God is concerned about our attitude as well as our actions?