

ComparaSIN

Stealing Joy

In the battle to escape the comparison trap, we can become invincible to bad comparison by actively looking for the blessings, giving thanks, and inviting others into celebrating them. Because there are some things worth celebrating.

Discussion Questions

1. Are you a “glass half full” person, or a “glass half empty” person? Does it depend on the circumstances? Please share.
 2. When you're being distracted by what blessings someone else has, you're not looking at what blessings you already have. Do you tend to spend more time paying attention to what strengths and gifts you have, or do you catch yourself spending more time looking at another's gifts or where you fall short? Why is that?
 3. We have to look for the blessings, but the next step is that we need to give thanks for the blessings we have right now, regardless for how long that blessing will be in our life. What is one thing that you are grateful for? When was the last time you thanked God for it?
 4. It can be easy to forget that what we experience as hassles in our life can actually be gifts. Is there a job, a relationship, a commitment in your spiritual life, etc, that you often think of to be a hassle but it's actually a gift? What is it, and why is it a gift? Please be specific.
 5. When the lost sheep is found (Luke 15:1-7), when the coin is found (Luke 15:8-10), when the son comes home (Luke 15:11-32), the immediate response is one of thanksgiving. There are gifts in your life that are worth celebrating, that are worth being pointed out. Why do you think it's difficult to let others celebrate us? If you see the celebration from God's perspective, does that change your perception of it? How so?
 6. We look for the blessings, we give thanks for the blessings, and, like the father of the prodigal son, we should invite others into the blessings as well. Is there a life event or a milestone of a family member or friend that merits celebration soon? Is there a friend or family member that's going through a tough time and could simply use an affirmation? What is something practical that you could do to celebrate those people in your life?
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God in Real Life

This week, be intentional in stopping to look at the blessings in your life. Give thanks to God for those blessings in your life. And find a practical way to invite others to share in those blessings.

To the Heart

"Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the Lord." Psalm 98:5-6