

FLYING BLIND

SATISFACTION AMNESIA

Discussion

From your own experiences, what is more difficult—trusting and obeying God in times of suffering or in times of prosperity? Why?

Encounter – Read God’s Word so that He can speak to you - **Deuteronomy 8:11-20**

Explore – God’s Word by asking questions of what you saw.

1)

When have you been truly satisfied? What was your life like then? What things were happening to make you feel satisfied?

- How much of this satisfaction was a result of your hard work or abilities?

2)

List all the kindnesses God has lavished on you.

- What happens when we start to forget these kindnesses?

3)

We usually think of loss as a test of our faith and our love for God. How are prosperity and satisfaction a test of our faith and our love for God?

- How are these things a test from God?

1) Winning a scholarship to a prestigious university

2) Receiving accolades for a beautiful painting, poem or musical performance

3) A promotion in business

4) Gaining a windfall fortune on the stock market

5) Learning to read or to ride a bicycle

6) Mastering a new computer program

7) A hole-in-one on the golf course

8) [Do you have another example?]

4)

Even your ability to work hard, to think clearly, to use a skill are a gift from God. But do you understand that even these are not primarily for your prosperity but for His glory? What does this mean?

- How does this make a difference in the way you work, your attitude about work, your goal for work?

5)

How is forgetting God a threat to yourself?

6)

Explain what happens in each step of this downward spiral toward idolatry:

- Forget

- Not thankful

- Self-sufficient

- Idolatry

7)

(Verses 19-20). What are our consequences for forgetting God? How do we experience the same fate as the world when our values become the same as the world?

EMBRACE – Make God's thoughts part of your thoughts

Memorize Matthew 5:10-12