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Bible Doctrine Presented in Visual Format

THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF SATISFACTION

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The Relentless Pursuit of Satisfaction

Topic	Explanation	Additional Notes
Introduction	The crave for fulfillment comes with life or else life wouldn't be life. Seeking fulfillment in the way that God intended will bring about real satisfaction. Serving the Lord does not mean you can't enjoy life.	The heart of the matter for this topic is how to be satisfied.
The Design and Goal in Seeking Satisfaction	At the creation, Adam would have known right away of his need for satisfaction. God immediately informed Adam of the devastating consequences of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Fulfillment of human needs must line up with the Word of God (Ex. 20:17) which will glorify God. Whether it's the desire for a successful career (II Sam 3:21) or for something as basic as food, the most important aspect is fulfilling our need for a relationship with God (Psalm 42:1). Only when we glorify God do we get the satisfaction we crave.	Man was created to glorify God (Isa. 43:7), and God put it in the heart of man (Ecc. 3:11) to pursue fulfillment bigger than just basic everyday needs, which is why even atheists have to believe in something, and so they believe in themselves.
Seeking Real Satisfaction or Filling Lusts	Since the Garden of Eden, there's been choices in front of mankind. Either man can choose God's way (Deut 30:19) of filling the need for satisfaction or attempt to fill lusts by other means, which will never satisfy the heart of man (Ec 5:10). While it is easy for the unsaved to run after their lusts (Exod. 15:9), believers will have the desire to develop their spiritual lives (I Peter 4:2). Believers are only to marry believers and divorce can only be granted when there's been infidelity (Mat 5:32).	Making money isn't a sin; it's putting these material possessions first place in your life that constitutes as sin. The love of money is the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10).

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." -John Piper

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Trials and Temptations	On the road to seeking fulfillment, there will be trials and temptations. God will not tempt anyone (Jas 1:13), but he will test his children (Psa 7:9). Testing goes against the will of our flesh, but in the end will prove where our heart was in the first place. Praying for protection from temptation can help safeguard us (Matt 6:13) from running into the devil's temptations (Matt 4:1-11).	The enemy wants us to fulfill desires in ways that are forbidden by God, but lust will only bring momentary satisfaction (Lev. 26:26), and not that satisfaction and contentment that only God can give (Joel 2:26).
Steps and Factors in Fulfilling the Lust of the Flesh and Committing Sin	The road to destruction begins in the mind. You first run into a temptation. Then, the temptation is fed in the mind, and you go to the next step, which is convincing yourself that sinning brings more satisfaction than doing things God's way. Adam and Eve thought that sin would satisfy (Gen 3:6), but their sin changed the course of human history forever. Feeding on the lust of the flesh leads to the actual committing of sin which is followed by punishment (Jas 1:14-15). Being out of the will of God leads to more sin (2 Sam 11:1).	It never pays to sin. Never. The multitudes will accept the mark of the beast, which will merit them the highest degree of punishment in the lake of fire.
The stark difference between physical and spiritual fulfillment	Filling the spiritual void is by far the most important, but at the same time, seeking physical contentment was God's original design (1 Tim 6:17), but this aspect can not be the main goal in life (1 Tim 6:10). When we stand before Christ, the level of income won't be the topic up for discussion. First things need to be kept in first place.	[Ecc. 12:13-14] We will see the importance of our spiritual life on earth, which will eventually take control of our future destiny.
Important Principle: God designed human life where the only real satisfaction is found in him.		

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Real Contentment versus a Lack of Fulfillment	In the relentless pursuit of satisfaction, it is easy to compromise what is necessary. However in the long run, all you do is sacrifice real contentment on the altar of the temporary. There is a place for physical satisfaction, but seeking it outside the realm of God's will will only delay any real contentment. The world can give rest, but not like the rest that Christ can give (Matt 11:28) amongst other things (Prov. 13:25; 15:16). Do as God would have you do, and your physical needs will be met (Matt 6:33). Hearing Christ call you a faithful servant will be very rewarding (Matt 25:21).	Service to the Lord, work, and entertainment all provide satisfaction. Even if you don't get any results street witnessing, once a session is done, you won't be left with a mere empty feeling. God enacted the Law of Diminishing Returns to keep us from laughing at the same joke for years on end.
Handling Mistakes and Regret	There's no sense in wallowing in regret after a mistake. Continue to push forward while not letting your past get to you. The devil likes to tempt you and then remind you of your sins after you've committed them. Instead, relish on a victorious future in Christ (Phil 3:13).	Being surrounded by committed Christians in a good church or congregation is good for accountability and encouragement.
Changing your Mindset and Desires	After taking the wrong road, take measures to correct the situation. Being in a good church employing mutual accountability will help motivate you to be faithful. Paul's desire for his countrymen to be saved (Rom. 10:1) wasn't always on his list. Managing your desires (Matt 6:21) and aspirations by the word of God is one way to grow (1 Pet 2:2), which all believers must do.	The aspirations and desires of Paul (Acts 8:1-3; Phil 1:21), Peter (Matt 26:75; Acts 2:14), Moses (Ex. 2:12; 32:32), and Abraham (Gen 16:2-4; 22:10) all matured as their walk with Christ grew.
Conclusion:	The secret to this satisfaction is to always pursue God (Prov. 2:1-5)	Also, be content (Phil 4:11).

You don't have to be in vogue to attain the satisfaction that only God can offer. Matter of fact, being in vogue may stunt your growth.

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