

POWERLINE #6

d: when the storms of life toss you around, what have you got to hold onto?

s: grab onto the powerline. hi, i'm shereen.

d: and i'm dave. don't touch that dial.

s: cause in the next half hour, we've got some great music and talk on the pursuit of happiness. so if you're feeling down and out,

d: listen up, and join in. hunting for happiness, today on powerline.

s: "happy, shiny people." that's REM.

d: i'm dave with shereen. so, what does it take to make you happy? lots of money, friends, a luxury car, home on the beach? or does happiness depend on your point of view?

s: for some, happiness is simply knowing where the next meal is coming from. or to have a blanket in a tin shack to sleep in? for others, they are not happy unless they drive the latest car or wear designer clothes.

d: so, what is happiness? how do we achieve it? from these examples, you would think that money is the route of happiness. after all, it's the means to acquiring comfort and pleasure.

s: or is there something else missing here? the pursuit of happiness is argueably the most over-looked source of addiction in society. think about it, drug abuse, sex abuse, most all sinful behavior is rooted in the quest for happiness. the "ultimate high."

d: shereen, i recently asked about 100 high school students what their greatest ambition in life was. and most of them told me:

boy 1: to make money and be happy.

d: well, i guess it's the same ambition their parents have. children learn what they live. the pursuit of money and by extention happiness though is not necessarily a bad thing, unless it becomes an end in itself.

s: in other words, having money is not bad unless the money has you. but let's figure this further. is it possible to be happy every hour of every day? no one of course can avoid periods of frustration and misery, it's part of life. two sides of the same coin. you can't know happiness without knowing it's opposite, you know what i mean?

d: but even in times of distress, how we choose to react can restore to a measure of contentment. please note than "choose" is the keyword here. in the end, happiness is a choice. a state of mind which is not to be routed in our possessions or circumstances.

s: yeah, so if you want to choose to be happy no matter what comes your way, keep listening. powerline will have some helpful hints to get you through each day.

girl 1: garbled

girl 2 : by the time i leave the world i should know that i made a difference and that i count.

d: "place in this world."

s: that's michael w. smith on powerline.

d: and we're dave and shereen. well, the hunt for happiness continues:

s: and as promised, here are a few helps towards being a happier person:

s: first don't expect anyone else to make you happy.

d: wow, that might be difficult.

s: but it's true. there's no person, male or female, who can make you happy. sure, there are people who are fun to be with, people you enjoy, people who enjoy you. but remember though that fun comes and goes, it never lasts forever. if you expect someone to make you happy, you're expecting too much.

d: if you are happier when you are with certain people, it's because you feel good about yourself when you're with them. you're making yourself happy with the pleasure you take from their company. well concentrate on that feeling. don't expect it to always be the same, and don't demand that other people do it for you. you can't demand happiness from anyone else because it comes from within you.

s: second, take control of your life. at some point you must decide who and what you want to be. make a list of priorities. what is really important to you? then, identify what it's gonna take to make it happen. don't drift along and wonder why your life isn't going anywhere. whatever you really want, go after it.

d: third, take care of yourself. being a happy person is based on thought just as much as on feelings. how do you think about yourself? life? other people? are you in bondage to some pain from the past? examine your needs and make sure they're being met in healthy ways. you can't change the pain of the past and you can't always control the future but you can do something about today. and that's the only way anybody can change his/her life, one day, one minute at a time.

s: finally, look in the right places. don't expect a diamond in a packet of chips, don't try to grow roses in the middle of

the highway. if you want satisfying, enduring, beautiful things in life, spend your time and energy with the people and activities that are routed in those values. be willing to take the risk in reaching out for something new and letting go of things that block your growth.

d: there is a right place to look for happiness and someone to help you take care of yourself. why not look to the one who created happiness and gives it liberally to those who trust Him for it. well, that person of course is God and his plan for your life is found in the bible.

s: why not start in the book of John, that's a good place to start.

d: this is pray for rain and let go.

d: you're on the powerline.

s: i like their style. the band is "pray for rain" with the song title "let go."

s: and i'm shereen holier. well i don't know about you but a good joke is part of the recipe for happiness. and dave clark has set out in search of a few giggles and grins for today's show. let's see what he's come up with over at the high school campus.

boy 1: if a police officer arrests a mom do you tell him that he has the right to remain silent?

girl1: would a fly without wings be called a "walk."

boy 1: if a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

dc: alright here you go, why is't that they always lock public restrooms? is it because they're afraid that someone will come in and clean them?

d: well there's a group of guys that call themselves "new song" and it's a wonderful life.

man: the key to happiness is friendship. you must have friendship, you must have people around me.

d: that's "petra," in the likeness of you. you've got dave and shereen on the powerline working on a happiness theme today.

s: nike, reebok, adidas, boys of london, stussi, even the words "coke" are household names and all the rage when it comes to wearing their logos on your clothing.

d: you know it's amazing how much free advertising these companies get when you pay for the priveledge of punting their names. its a trend i call designer happiness.

s: just how important are designer clothes to young people nowadays?

d: well let's tune into powerline street talk and find out.

boy 1: i would personally not wear designer clothes cause the designer clothes nowadays are really wrong. all this big "rave" stuff, i can't stand it. to me, t shirt and jeans is fine.

man: desinger clothes is important because we buy something for quality that will last.

girl 1: jeans and a t shirt, just whatever you're comfortable in. you don't have to prove anything to anyone.

boy 2: i think it is important because it symbolizes who you are.

man 2: it's very important, we need clothing that will fit.

d: it seems to me that maybe the reason designer stuff with the designer's name on it sells so well is because people are seeking status and identity. though you'll never hear them say it, what they're thinking is my "mercedes is a finely engineered car." but i also enjoy people knowing that i have reached the financial status to afford one.

s: like my neighbour. well status is nice. boosting your ego is a good feeling. but these are not the things that provide enduring peace.

d: there is an inner happiness that does not come from what you wear on the outside or what you drive. it's a happiness that doesn't depend on the kind of car you drive or the house you live in. it's a happiness that cannot be bought or sold. it only comes from God, through Jesus Christ. it's the knowledge that you're loved by God and this life that we experience today is only a step away from living with Him forever.

s: money can't buy happiness.

d: that's AVB, the acapella vocal band.

s: and that's powerline for this week.

d: if you would like a transcript or music list from today's show, hit us up on thepowerline.net. it's the same place you can send the wise guys a message on any subject. we've got some pretty wise gals too that can weigh in and it's all confidential, so don't worry. the address again is thepowerline.net. this program was originally recorded in johannesburg, and is now distributed worldwide. for shereen holier, i'm dave clark. hope you join us again next time.

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