



Lesson 21: Lovers of Pleasure

June Life in the Word Series:
'From Such Turn Away'



**Foundation
Scripture Lesson:
II Timothy 3:1-5**



II Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

“PLEASURE” is a form of the Greek word “hedone” from which we derive our word “hedonism,” defined as, “The doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.”





Lesson 21
Lovers of Pleasure

**When You Love Pleasure
More than God**



James 4:1-3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.



You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

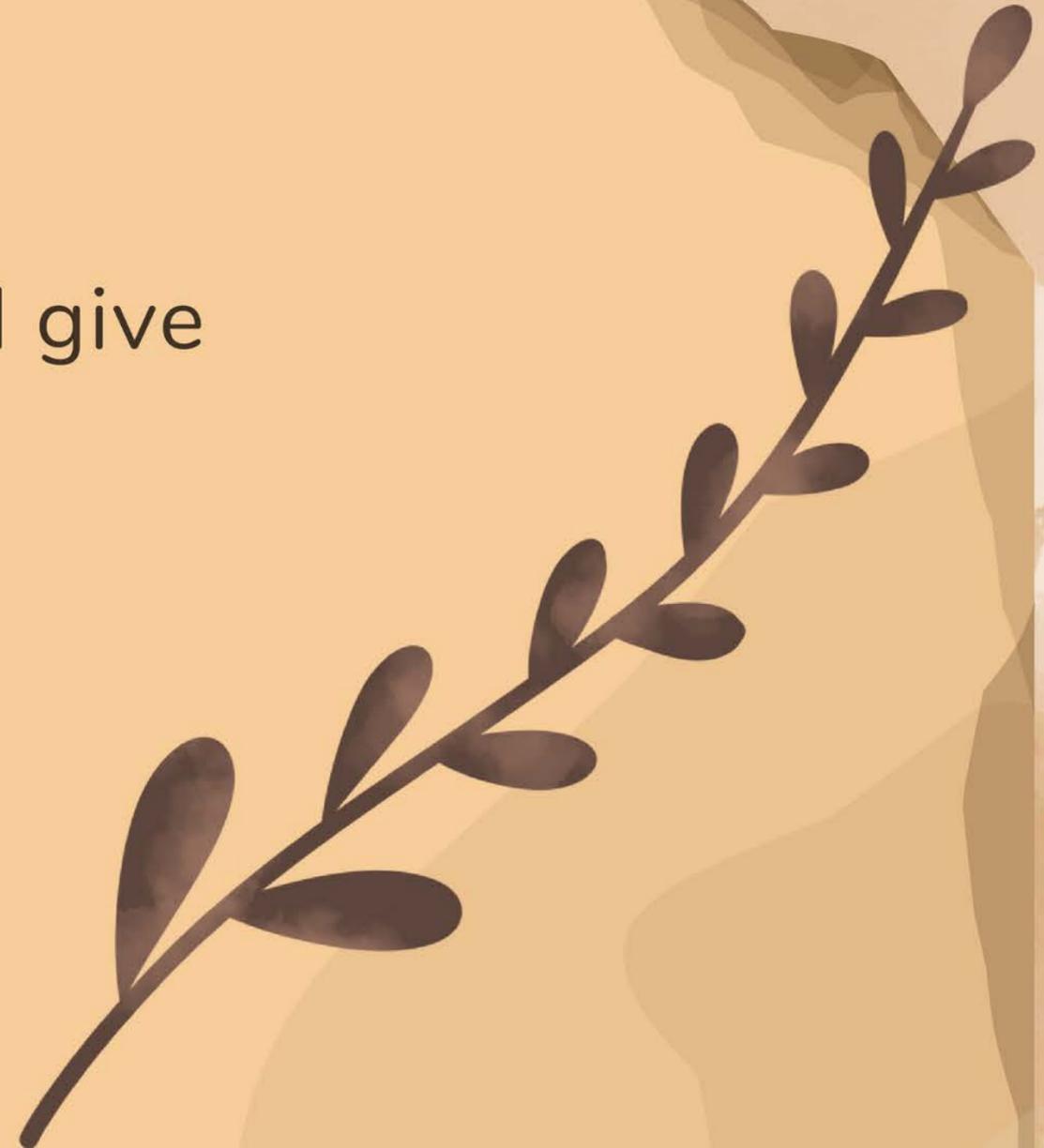


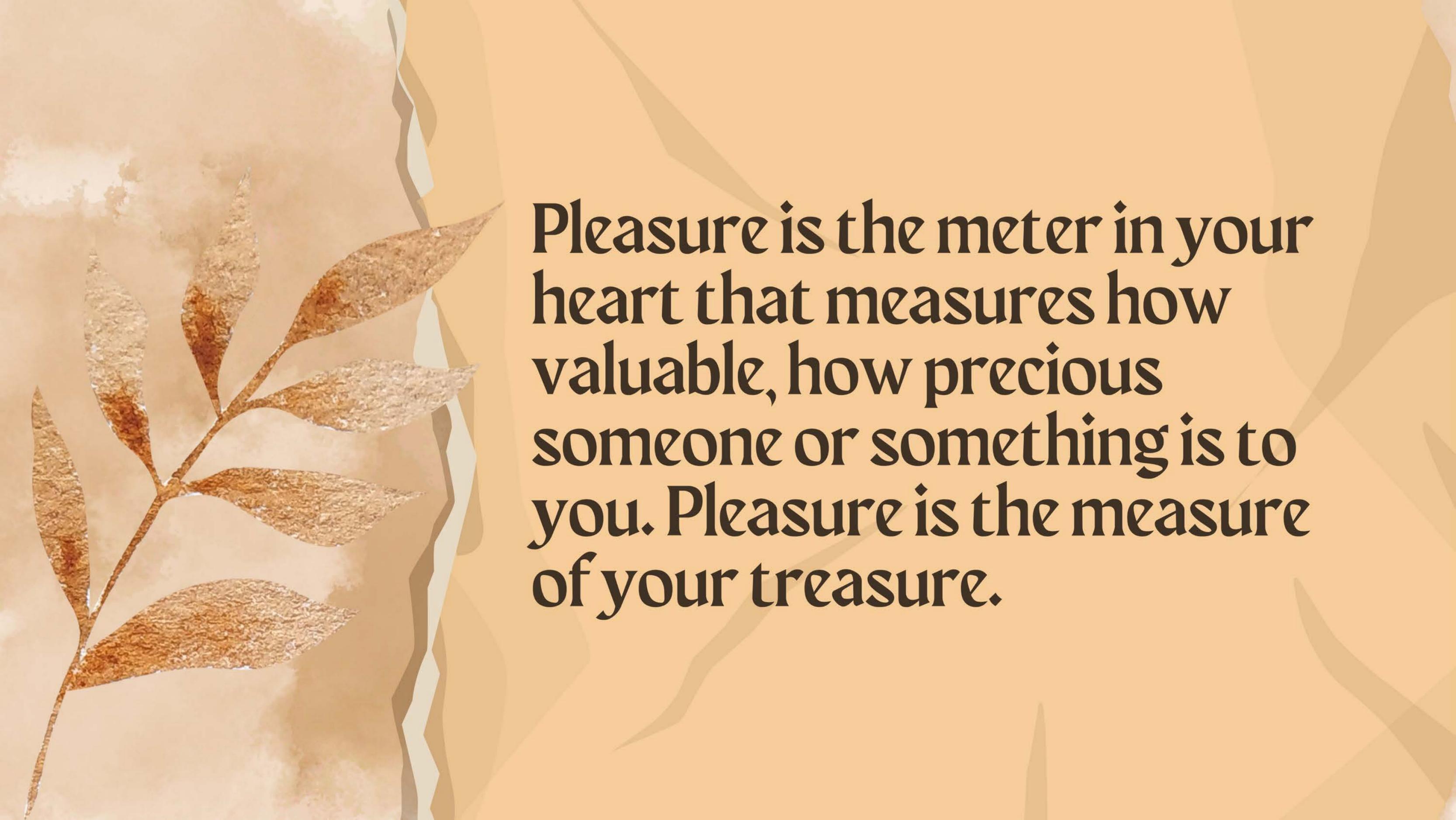
**God Wants Us to
Want Pleasure**



Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give
you the desires of your heart.





Pleasure is the meter in your heart that measures how valuable, how precious someone or something is to you. Pleasure is the measure of your treasure.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart [what you love] will be also.



**Pleasure is the whistleblower
of your heart.**



What is Innocent Pleasure?



Innocent pleasures are often ordinary things in life that bring us a moment of joy as we simply delight ourselves in them.



Romans 1:25

Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and to worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator.



A watercolor illustration of a branch with several leaves and clusters of small berries, rendered in shades of brown and tan. The branch enters from the bottom left and extends towards the center of the page.

Psalm 16:11

In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

Psalm 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven but You? And
there is none upon earth that I desire
besides You. My flesh and my heart fail;
But God is the strength of my heart and
my portion forever.

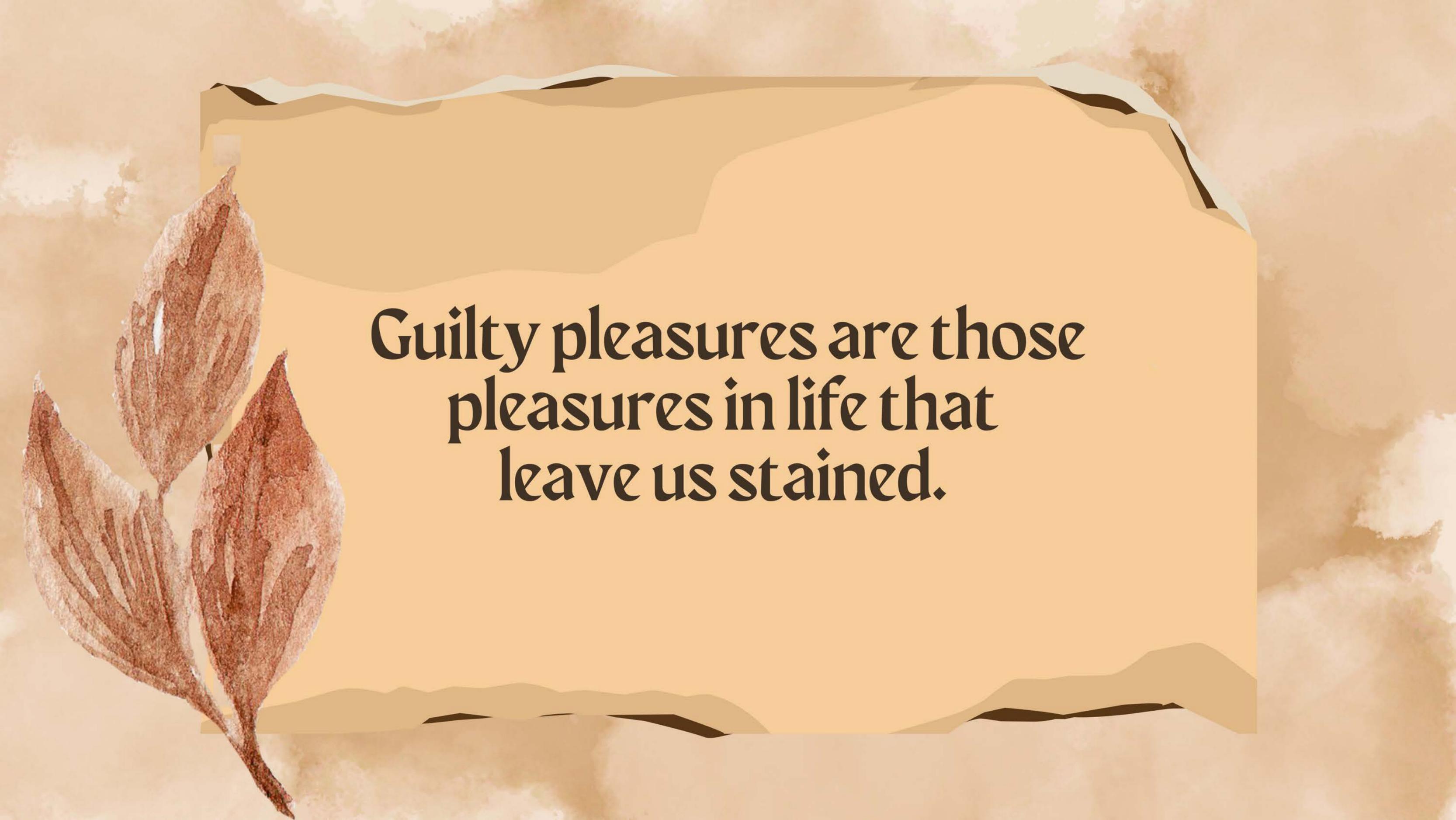


**When God is our biggest
pleasure, then all the little
pleasures fall into place.**



What are Guilty Pleasures?

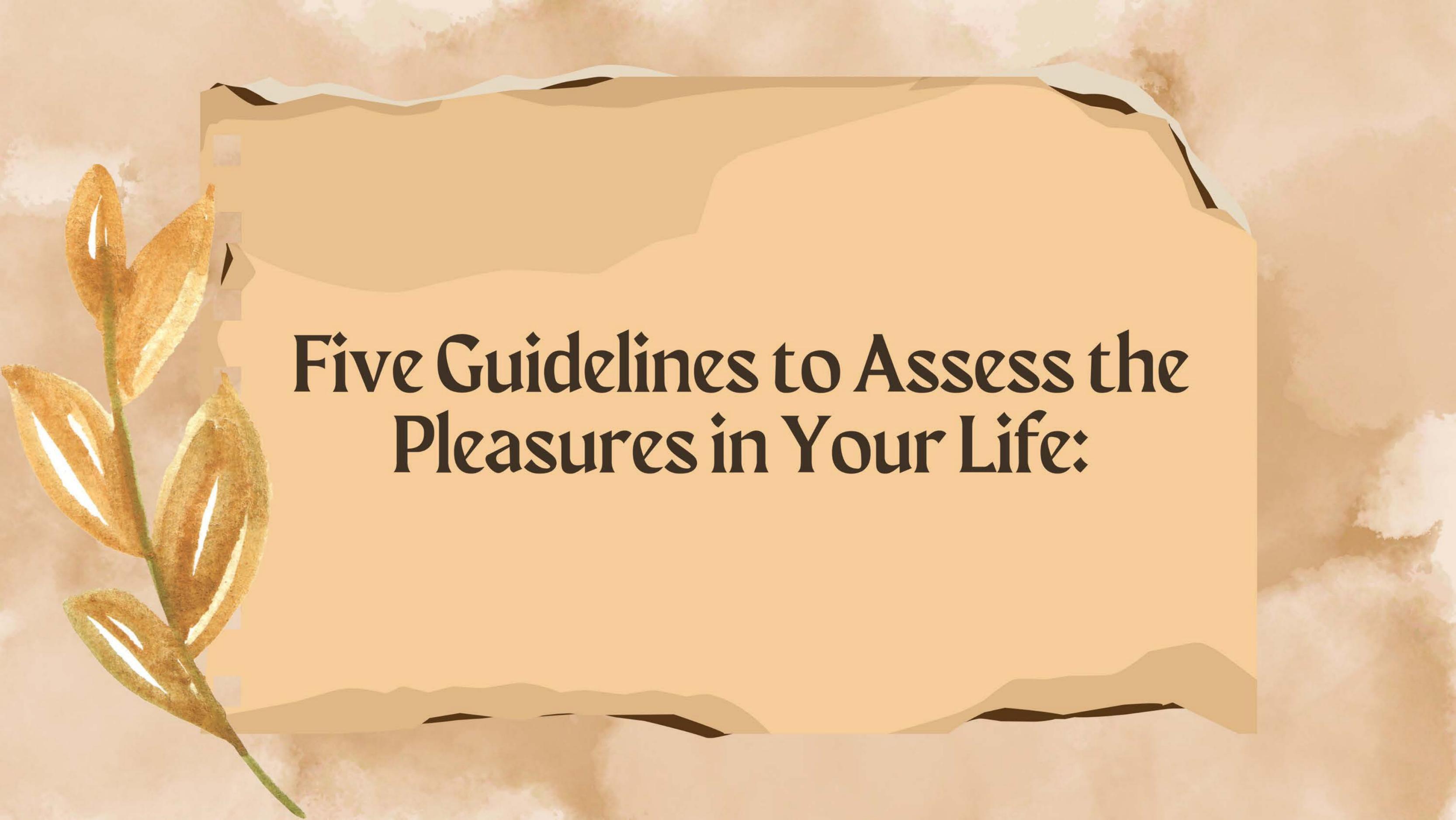


The image features a central piece of torn, aged paper with a light beige color and irregular, wavy edges. The paper is set against a background of soft, watercolor-style washes in shades of beige and light brown. On the left side, there are three dried, brown leaves with visible veins, attached to a small stem. The overall aesthetic is warm and textured.

**Guilty pleasures are those
pleasures in life that
leave us stained.**

Things that by themselves are
perfectly good can become
huge stumbling blocks
in our lives.





Five Guidelines to Assess the Pleasures in Your Life:

1. When It Is Obviously Wrong.



2. When It Controls You.



3. When You Hide It From Others.

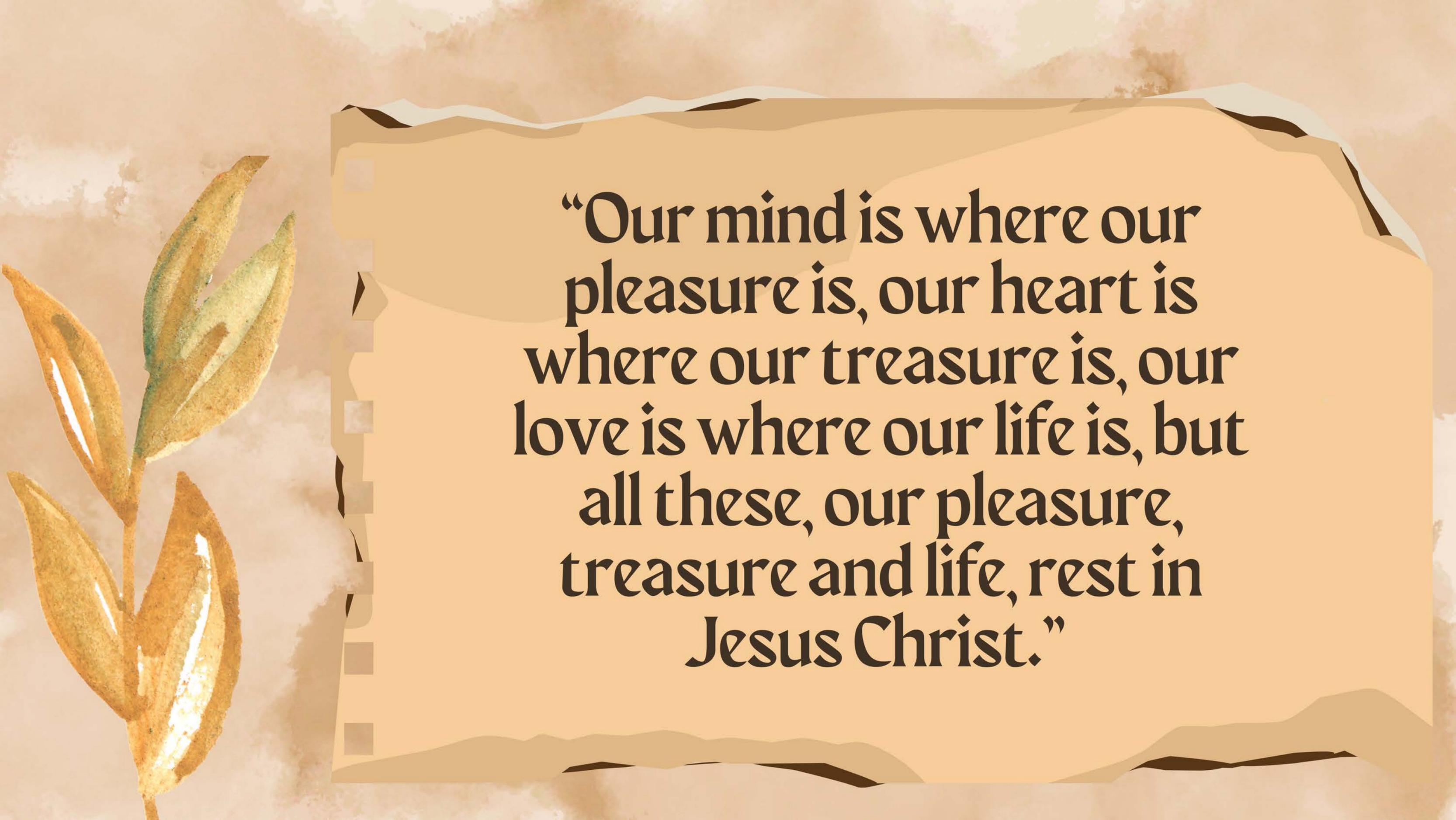


4. When It Hinders Your Duty.



**5. When It Doesn't Deliver
What It Promises.**





“Our mind is where our pleasure is, our heart is where our treasure is, our love is where our life is, but all these, our pleasure, treasure and life, rest in Jesus Christ.”

Follow Up Questions:

1. What is your definition of pleasure?
2. What is the result when we love pleasure more than we love God?
3. Pleasure is the measure of your treasure. How so?
4. List some examples of innocent pleasure.
5. In what ways can innocent pleasure become an escape hatch?
6. List some examples of guilty pleasure.
7. What are the five guidelines you can use to assess the pleasures in your life?
8. How can you apply this lesson to your spiritual life?

