

MID-WINTER FESTIVAL OF DISCONTENT

Christmas Lights (4)

Harold Bullock • December 27, 2009

“Now is the winter of our discontent”(Richard the Third by Shakespeare)

1. Why a Midwinter Festival? A _____ before the next push.
2. Festival Emotions
 - a. _____: Yearnings did not come true. *Job 30:26; Proverbs 13:12*
 - b. _____: Self-reproach over decisions made. *Isaiah 49:4*
 - c. _____: Anxiety/fear of looming problems. *Habakkuk 3:16-17*
 - d. _____: Will I continue? *James 1:6*
3. Facts about discontent: it...
 - a. Is an _____: A chosen mental/emotional approach to life.
 - b. Is a mental/emotional angle of...
 - Dissatisfaction: It's not enough yet.
 - Restlessness: No peace until I have better...
 - c. _____ your perspective. *Psalm 84:7*
Charles Spurgeon: *Morning and Evening*, Dec 14 A.M,
 - d. _____ you from present opportunity.
C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, ch. 15
5. Contentment is...
 - a. An attitude of “it’s okay; it’s _____ to be at peace.” *1 Timothy 6:7-8*

- b. A choice to _____ your... *1 Timothy 6:8*
 - Requirements
 - Desires
 - Actions
- c. _____ through “inadequate” situations. *Philippians 4:12*
6. How to handle the Festival of Discontent?
 - a. Disappointment *Job 30:26*
Humility: Set realistic expectations. *Ecclesiastes 11:8*
Faith: Trust God to do you good. *Job 42:12*
 - b. Regret
Humility: Confess sin or foolishness.
Reconciliation: Seek forgiveness.
Faith: Trust God to...
 - Forgive and help you. *John 1:8-9*
 - Reward what you did right and suffered for. *Hebrews 6:10*
 - c. Dread of the future *Habakkuk 3:17-19*
Faith: “God will empower me!”
Responsibility: I take action to do what I should.
 - d. Wavering *James 1:6-8*
Faith: Trust God to do right to me.
Decision: Decide to do God’s will no matter what.