

# I Used to Fly June Bugs on the End of a String

## Simple Pleasures in a Complicated World

Luke 8:14

Life has always had its complications. Nevertheless, contemporary culture in the USA is much more complicated than it was in my early days. For one thing, there is more stuff available to more people. Additionally, there are more things to do and more discretionary time available to do those things.

In my youth, it was a big deal to tie the leg of a June Bug to a bit of sewing thread and turn the thing loose to fly around. Building tree houses, making forts in the woods, camping out in the neighborhood, and looking for crawfish in the creek were adventures that produced great excitement. We never went out to eat and almost never went on a vacation. There were three channels on the black and white TV and stores were all closed on Sunday. Riding bikes in vacant parking lots on Sunday or taking the storied "Sunday drive," were, consequently, big deals!

Within the scope of Christianity there is a large place for seeking out simple pleasures within our complicated world. Let's consider some of those things that might help us accomplish more while not getting caught up in the frenzy of modern living.

### Bible Things

- Study and Christian living (II Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; Matt. 6:33)
  - Getting a good study Bible, a few well-chosen study aids, and spending some real quality time in purposeful study is an exhilarating experience!
  - Putting the word into practice in practical, everyday-life opportunities is heady stuff!
- Having a humble confidence in our relationship with God because of our knowledge of His word and adopting of His values (I Jn. 2:3, 5, 13-14, 29; 3:5, 10, 14, 19, 24; 4:7, 13, 16; 5:13, 19, 20)
  - Amid the swirling uncertainties of life, possessing a secure, biblically documented standing with God is priceless!
  - Knowing who we belong to is both humbling and full of assurance.

### People Things

- Helping someone (Ecc. 4:10).
- Teaching someone (Ps. 51:13)
- Forgiving someone (Matt. 6:14)
- Encouraging someone (Rom. 14:19)
- Spending time with someone (II Jn. 1:12)
- Being kind to someone (Phil. 4:5)
- Deferring to someone (Rom. 15:1-3)

Life is filled with opportunities that require little but a personal investment of our time with God and with others. These "simple pleasures" are truly priceless. Enjoy!

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