

## Feel the Pleasure of God Ephesians Part 23

*“...find out what pleases the Lord.”*

Ephesians 5:10

It was a classic. If you have watched American Idol you will know what I am talking about. Except this wasn't American Idol. It was Britain's Got Talent. Simon Cowell, the great and terrifying judge of singing talent, is sitting with his other partners, Piers and Amanda and seems as bored as one can get. In walks Susan Boyle. Susan is very common looking. She is forty seven. Her hair style is outdated. Simon's smirk says it all. It seems this will be another waste of time. There is a short interview on why Susan wants to sing in such a prestigious competition. She says that she has always wanted to be a singer. No one is taking her seriously including the crowd. Well, the moment comes. The music starts. Susan Boyle puts the microphone to her mouth and begins to sing, I Dream the Dream.

There was a transformation that took place on Simon Cowell's face. The bored smirky expression seemed to gather light. It was more than surprise, it was actual delight. The lips that were turned downward were full with a smile. There was great pleasure where there was once ambivalence. Susan Boyle nailed it like no other. Her voice was beautiful. She was on key, hit all the notes perfectly and her vibrato was excellent. The crowd went nuts. And Susan got a "Yes" from all three judges.

This event happened last year and has left an imprint on my mind. To see Simon Cowell, elbows on the table, head propped between his two hands with a pleasure-filled grin on his face, is a picture worth a thousand words. And I think: I want to put that same expression on my Father's face. I want to think, right now, that Jesus is doing the same thing.

The pleasure of God; there is no joy like it. Paul encourages us to find out what pleases the Lord. What have you found that brings a smile to God's face?

Eric Liddell in the classic, Chariots of Fire said, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel the pleasure of God." In what areas of your life, when you excel, do you feel this same pleasure from above?

Eric said to those gathered after he won the race, "You came to see a race today, to see someone win. It happened to be me. But I want you to do more than watch a race. I want you to take part in it. I want you to compare faith to running a race. It's hard. It requires concentration of will, energy of soul... I have no formula for winning a race. Everyone runs in her own way, or his own way. And where does the power come from, to see this race to its end? From within. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you. If with all your hearts, you truly seek me, you shall surely find me." If you commit yourself to the love of Christ, then that is how you run a straight race." Where do you need to concentrate will and energy in this faith-race to finish well and bring Him pleasure?