

Stewart Cink – True Contentment

Stewart played college golf for Georgia Tech before joining the PGA Tour in 1997, winning the Greater Hartford Open in his rookie season. Since then he has won seven other PGA tournaments, including the 2009 Open Championship in a playoff against Tom Watson. He recently won the 2020 Safeway Open and the 2021 RBC Heritage, which he has won three times. Stewart is interviewed here by Larry Moody, the Champions Tour Chaplain, long time PGA Tour Chaplain, and good friend of MGF.

In this short video, Stewart describes how he came to Christ and the stabilizing role his faith has had on the “way ups and way downs” of his career and personal life. As he puts it:

“Life is so uncertain and unpredictable, It’s hard to depend on the circumstances of your life to deliver you true joy, peace and satisfaction. What God offers us through Christ is a constant joy, contentment and satisfaction that is dependable and never changes. When Jesus is at the center, He irons out the turmoil in our peaks and valleys. It makes things so much more calm and manageable knowing that we have assurance of salvation and eternal life.”

These are not just words for Stewart. He and his wife Lisa have known something about turmoil over the past five years since Lisa was diagnosed with stage four cancer at the age of 43 in 2016. While it appeared that she was in remission, a recent checkup indicated that she might not be out of the woods and that her future is now uncertain. This ordeal has resulted in a sharpening of their faith and dependance on Him. Of course, Stewart wants his wife of 28 years to be with him and their two sons for a long time. But he and Lisa know that God fights their battles and they are trusting in His providence and will. This is where faith becomes real and goes into overdrive.

Stewart also discusses his recent disappointment in not making the cut at the 2021 Open Championship at Royal St. George’s. He had a great practice round on Thursday and was feeling strong on the range Friday morning. Then disaster struck with a 77, requiring him to go home. Does he wish he had played better that day and gone on to compete for a second Open trophy? Of course. However, Stewart doesn’t put his hope in winning tournaments. Here’s his outlook:

“A day like that just reminds me of what I can trust in and what I can’t trust in. I can’t depend on where the golf ball goes to get my peace and my joy. My soul is not going to be at rest if I rely on a good lie in the rough...or on the ball not plugging in the bunker...or falling in the cup instead of lipping out. I can’t rest on those things, but I can on Jesus Christ and His offer to us—that never changes.”

Discussion Questions

1. How do you handle life’s disappointments and turmoil when they strike?
2. What are your sources for joy, peace and contentment?
3. How does Stewart’s outlook influence your thoughts about your faith?

Click on the link below to watch Stewart’s 15 minute video

<https://vimeo.com/584497837>