

Contentment

—the Key to It!

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What would make us contented? What is the *secret*—the *key* to learning that virtue! Knowing the *secret* of contentment is a willingness to ask God for the *key* to it. We begin learning to be *content* by asking God to *show* us and *thanking* Him for many blessings He has already given.

Contentment today seems a lost art among millions and millions of people worldwide. Constant advertisements and telling us of things we need and must have are ever before us and influencing us in our choices and attitudes—especially during the holidays. There is so much of everything today that being content seems out of reach.

God speaks on the subject ¹ Timothy 6:8 “*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*” His Word is always truth on any matter, but the world remains in a continual state of *discontent* since it never reads His words nor accepts the Truth behind them.

It is easy to be caught in the trap of materialism, but *materialism* leads to *coveting*, and *coveting* to *greed*—which is a serious sin of always wanting *more* and the *best*, but never saying *Thanks, Lord for Your blessings*, and never *learning* the key on how to be content with what God has already given.

In a world that is content *only* with more and more, the believer should be thanking God more and more for giving us His *Truth* and enabling us to live that Truth—thanking Him for the living *hope* of Heaven through a continuing faith in Him.

With many blessings already received; the multitude of good things already enjoyed; and the *privilege* of forgiveness by faith in Jesus—our thanking God should *never* be ignored and always voiced!

Most people do not *know* the Truth, nor do they *know* the *God* in whom they *should* trust. Unfortunately, most would not *live* His Truth even if they *did* know it. John 17:3 “*This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”

John told those who came to Him to be baptized before repenting—Luke 3:9 “*And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*” Fruits of repentance is doing what he *said*—and *learning* to be *content* with what God had already given.

Luke 3:11 “*He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath [food], let him do likewise.*” To others ¹³ “*Exact no more than that which is appointed you.*” And ¹⁴ “*Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.*”

John told them to be *content* with their wage scale—whether low pay or high salary—advice that is universally rejected by the world. The desire for more money and higher wages is widespread today—no one seems content with what they are paid—even though God says ¹ Timothy 6:8 “*Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*”

A poll of wage-earners—and asking what they would *like* to be paid—the majority of them, and regardless of whether they were earning *minimum* wage or a *high* salary, said they wanted to make *twice* what they *were* earning. The human heart is never satisfied—that is, until it is *converted* by God—and allowing Him to *teach* us the key to *contentment*!

Each day we *pray* for a *contented* spirit and a *thankful* heart—it is a secret that *can* be known.

Philippians 4:1—“*For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*” ¹² “*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*”

Being content is *learned* under God’s *training*. His Word always gives scriptural advice, like—Being content with what we *have*; being content with where we *work*; and being content with the neighborhood in which we live. It is possible to be content—just remain *in* God’s will. Hebrews 13:5 “*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’*”

Satan wants us to be *discontented* about something; with someone; or about anything. The devil wants us to desire *more* and never be satisfied with *less*—but we should *not* always want *more*—and instead be content with *less*—giving away *surplus*. We should *cherish* what we *have*—not *resent* what we *lack*.

The apostle said—² Corinthians 12:10 “*I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses*”—for the sake of God’s Truth, he meant; “*For when I am weak, then am I strong*”—by the ability God would give. He *knew* the importance of *persevering* in faith and *doing* what God wanted him to do. He learned that ¹ Timothy 6:6 “*Godliness with contentment is great gain.*”

The apostle was grateful that some members sent him gifts, and when the opportunity again presented itself, they responded. Philippians 4:10, “*I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.*”

The apostle was *not* interested in how many things he could *collect*, but how faith in God could be *applied*. He was a *prisoner* in Rome; *confined*

to an apartment Acts 28:30; and *guarded* by a soldier Acts 28:16. He was under *house arrest* and not allowed to work at a trade to pay his personal expenses. But in that situation, he had the opportunity to *trust* God in faith to *provide* what he needed each day.

His expression of *thanks* reveals his attitude of *contentment*—in spite of very difficult circumstances. His letter reflects his *confidence* in God's *promises* to provide—no matter what the situation was. He knew that *God* controlled everything, and if he *met* things according to the *Word*, the promise would be *fulfilled*—Romans 8:28 that “*All things work together for good to them that love God.*”

He knew that if he would keep trusting God—for strength, courage, peace, and contentment, God would give him success. He was *sure* that God would take care of him. The Holy Spirit had enlightened him to know the difference between *wants* and *needs*—something we *also* should learn.

Each morning we ask God to reveal any attitude in our *heart* that is not in accordance with His *will*, and asking Him for the ability to make corrections in *direction* or changes in *attitude*. 1 John 2:17 “*The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*”

It is *not* the will of God to keep *accumulating* more things and to keep *stockpiling* more possessions—with no thought of who could use the extra we have. Matthew 6:32-33 (“*After all these things do the Gentiles seek:*) *for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

It is our Christian duty to keep trusting God in faith—He *then* provides our needs of the moment. No matter what our present situation may be, there is no need to worry—but there *is* a *faith* to apply.

If we will *trust* Him in faith, God will prove *faithful* to His promise. *Outward* circumstances should not *effect* on our *inner* contentment.

Those with the *most things* are generally the *most unhappy*. They do not *know* the secret because they have not *read* the Book. More *money* does not result in more *contentment*. Most people think that God does *not* actually provide things today, but the believer in Christ has faith in God that He *will provide* all that is needed—and more.

Jesus said to “*Sell,*” and “*give to the poor,*” because this would Luke 12:33 “*Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted.*” He added “*Where your treasure is,*” there your *heart* is 34. Accepting His advice is what trusting God is all about. What we do with our *treasure* shows the attitude of our *heart*.

1 John 2:15 “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*”

Jesus said that it is not possible to *love God* and *love the world* at the same time. No one can love *God* and love *money* concurrently. Luke 16:13 “*No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*”

14 “*And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. 15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*”

We cannot *love* the world and constantly desire things *of* the world. Unbelievers are preoccupied with fulfilling every desire and never asking if it *is* God's will.

The world puts forth much effort to accumulate material things that are seen—*lust of his eyes*. The human heart can be *obsessed* with *pride*—*boasting of what he has and does*. The *serpent* tempted *Eve* with these very things, but God wants to see the *opposite* in us—*lowliness* of mind and *humility* of heart.

Trusting God in faith to provide the needs of the moment is the *right* and *scriptural* attitude. By the grace of God, may we be able to take a good look at what He has already given and say, *Thanks, Lord, for Your blessings on me. Forgive me for not realizing how blessed I am to know Your Truth, and to be able to trust in the Atonement Blood of Your Son for all issues in my life.*

If we will maintain our *faith* in Him to provide our needs of each day in a right and scriptural way, He Philippians 4:19 “*Shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” Of that we can be sure.

Our only concern is to be *in His will*—being shown the *key* to contentment and *learning* how to truly be *content*.

We *then* are to be *thanking* Him for—1 Timothy 6:8 “*Having food and clothing, [because] with these we shall be content.*”



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