

Learning Contentment and Avoiding Complacency

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Contentment defined

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not **enough**

(this word is also translated 'content' in Lk.3:14; 1Tim.6:8; Heb.13:5; 3Jn.10) for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

The confession of contentment

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.**

Contentment is a way of life

Hebrews 13:5 Let your **conversation** [conduct, behavior, or manner of living] be without covetousness; and **be content** with such **things as ye have**: for (because or for this reason) he (the Lord) hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

We learn to be content

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to **be content**. **12 I know** (because I learned) both **how to be abased** (humbled or reduced), and **I know how** to abound (prosper or to have abundance): every where and **in all things** I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound (to have plenty) and to suffer need (living without). **13** I can do all things (be content in whatsoever state) **through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

Have a humble attitude toward yourself

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom **I am chief**.

We deserve nothing

Job 1:21-22 And [Job] said (after all his material possessions were taken away and all his children died), Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave (Job's possessions and his children), and the LORD hath taken away (God does not owe us anything); blessed be the name of the LORD. **22** In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Only one thing is needful

Luke 10:42 Jesus said, 'But **one thing is needful**: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which **shall not be taken away from her**.'

Hearing His Word

Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called **Mary**, which also sat at **Jesus' feet**, and **heard his word**.

The word of the kingdom

Matthew 13:19 'When any one heareth **the word of the kingdom**'?

The kingdom truths produce contentment

Matthew 13:45-46 Again, **the kingdom of heaven** is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: **46** Who, when he had found **one pearl of great price**, went and **sold all that he had**, and bought it.

Be content with the basics

1 Timothy 6:7-8 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having **food and raiment** (clothing or shelter) let us **be** therewith **content**.

Count all the things to be dung

Philippians 3:7-8 But what **things** were **gain to me**, those **I counted loss** for Christ. **8** Yea doubtless, and **I count all things but loss**

for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of **all things**, and do **count them but dung**, that **I may win Christ**

Contentment manifested

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and **took joyfully** the spoiling of your goods (contentment manifested), knowing (not feeling) in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Complaining is a sign of discontentment

Matthew 20:10-11 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more (not content with their wages); and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the good man of the house.

The danger of complacency

Hosea 13:5-6 I took care of you in the wilderness, in that dry and thirsty land. 6 But **when you had eaten and were satisfied** (complacent), **then you** became proud and **forgot me** (NLT).

Complacency destroys

Proverbs 1:32 For the turning away of the simple (from reproof) will slay them, And the **complacency** of fools will **destroy them**.

Complacent is to be lukewarm

Revelation 3:15,17 I know thy works, that thou art **neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and **increased with goods**, and **have need of nothing**; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Be Zealous!!!

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: **be zealous** therefore, and repent.

Godliness with contentment is great gain

1 Timothy 6:6-8 But **godliness with contentment is great gain**.

Be content by waiting patiently for the Lord

Psalms 37:7-9 Rest in the LORD, and **wait patiently for him**: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but **those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth**.

Receive a full reward

2 John 8 Look to yourselves, that we **lose not** those things which we have wrought, but that we receive **a full reward**.