

Christian Guide to Contentment – 4-24-24

Many struggle with being content. Not being satisfied.... Never having enough.

Discontent w/ job? Relationship? What you're doing in life? House? Income? We have to know what's going on to fix it. Diagnosis first, then treatment.

Q - Is this something that can be changed? Yes – contentment is learned.

Phil 4:11-12 - "I have *learned to be content* whatever the circumstances. 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."

We can learn to be content. How? First recognize the problem that hinders it.

1 Tim. 6 – "4 [There are] people who disagree [with the Bible's teachings and] are *proud* of themselves, but they don't really know a thing. *Their minds are sick*, and they like to argue over words. They cause *jealousy*, disagreements, unkind words, evil suspicions, ⁵ and nasty quarrels. They have wicked minds and have missed out on the truth. These people think religion is supposed to make you rich. ⁶ **And religion does make your life rich, by making you content with what you have.** ⁷ We didn't bring anything into this world, and we won't take anything with us when we leave. ⁸ **So we should be satisfied just to have food and clothes.** ⁹ People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. ¹⁰ The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much they have given up their faith and caused themselves a lot of pain." [Cont Engl Ver] **It's a warning & explanation.**

- When our minds are **unhealthy/sick**, it causes/results in **jealousy**.
- What's **at the heart of jealousy?** **Greed: a selfish desire.**
- **Selfish desires create Jealousy.** **Pride** says we deserve it
 - o **Diagnosis for discontent: Greed, from which stems jealousy/pride.**
 - But the root cause of discontentment is unhealthy mind.

Solution: 4 G's - Get rid of Greed & Grow in Godliness.

- Other transl – **1 Tim. 6:6** – "*Godliness with contentment is a great gain.*"
 - o **Godliness:** thinking right & acting right. . . living out the words/Jesus.
 - o **Godliness** is the example [proof] of our faith.
 - What is our faith? God loves me. Provides. Blesses. Answers.
 - o **Godliness** is **trusting God to provide for our needs while being content with what we have.**
 - Being satisfied is a mark of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.
 - It's Evidence of **mature faith** . . . say like David: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." **... I lack nothing... I have all I need. . .**

Mature faith – knows: when we're ready, God will move us up.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Pet 5:6

Mature faith – knows: the people driving you crazy, are serving a purpose.

As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another. Prov 27:17

Mature faith – knows: if you need it, God would have provided it.

And my God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19

Jesus said: Your Father knows what you need even before you ask. Matt. 6:8.

And sometimes we have not b/c we ask not. Ask & shall receive. Luke 11

¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Contentment comes w/ spiritual maturity. That's why Paul said: "I have learned..."

Maturity begins w/ desire/grow up... allow God to open minds & change hearts

We go from saying "my way" & submit to God's way. Repent.

John Baptist preached: repent. "Produce fruit in keeping w/repentance."

People asked how? What do we do? Luke 3:10 – share your abundance, blessings.

2 shirts...food. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." ► Repent of greedy attitudes: I need... I must have...

Contentment is fruit of our faith. God is enough. I'm where I need to be

- Battling the desire for \$ [Greed] is part of our Christian journey/maturity.
 - o Jesus said: "You cannot serve both God and money." Matt. 6:24
 - o Jesus followed up by saying – don't worry, birds don't sow/reap, or store away in barns – God feeds them. We're more valuable.
 - o God knows what we need. Seek Him first, pursue righteousness (Godliness) "and all these things will be given to you as well."
 - All our needs will be met. Maybe "wants" – if we're ready.
 - "As well" – pursue righteousness first, be blessed mentally & spiritually, but we'll also be blessed in worldly ways as well.

But keep this in mind:

- o World wants position/power... Jesus taught the last will be first.
- o World wants to have pride . . . Jesus taught humility.
- o World wants to accumulate . . . Jesus taught to give.
- o World wants control . . . Jesus taught submission.
- o World wants to be master . . . Jesus taught servant.

God won't bless us in a way that will hurt us. He wants us **healthy**.

Learning to be content is **surrendering** to God: if I need it, He'll provide.

- Surrendering my selfish desire to accept what God desires.
- Surrendering to H.S. teach me to be grateful for what I have, not focus on lack

4-24-24 – **Solution to Contentment: 4 G's - Get rid of Greed & Grow in Godliness.**

4 scriptures to keep in your heart to grow in Godliness:

- **2 Cor. 9:8** – “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
- **Philippians 4:19** – “And my God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
- **Psm 84:11** – “No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly”
- **Psalm 34:9-10** – “Fear the LORD, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.”

Song of the week – “Satisfied” – GVB