1Thess #125

Contentment is real happiness.

Let us open back up in 1Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 14 where we left off.

1Thes 5:14 We urge you, brothers *and sisters,* admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

[1Th 5:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/15/s_1116015) See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek what is good for one another and for all people.

The Apostle Paul is instructing the leaders or those who are mature in Thessalonica, to handle the recent problem that arose with real virtue, which means the Royal Family Honor Code is to be upheld.

Godly virtues are the fertilizer for the singular tree of the plural fruits of the Spirit.

Godly virtues are the lifeforce within the Fruit of the Spirit. without active divine virtue in your life the fruits of the Spirit in your life will have little or no growth and strength.

Godly virtues are seen within the new nature in your integrity, your character, your viewpoint and application of BD.

 /[1Th 5:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/16/s_1116016) Rejoice always,

Many scholars argue this is the shortest verse in the Bible, not John 11:35.\

It is a strong case that John 11:35 was originally written as *“Jesus began to weep”* not – “*Jesus wept*.”

It has to do with how the original language has it written and some of the earliest transcripts of the NT.

[1Th 5:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/17/s_1116017) pray without ceasing,

[1Th 5:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/18/s_1116018) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

The doctrine of prayer and thanksgiving will be coming up soon enough.

It is important to cover what the original language has here in verse 16.

/1Thes 5:16 *Chairō pantote.*

A greeting or statement of blessing, peace and contentment. Wishing a cheerful life or happiness. All the time in everything you do! \

KEYE-RO PANT-ATAY.

Contrary to what the devil’s world will tell you, this word - *rejoice ,*was not an emotional high or an over reaction to something or someone.

This word rejoice was often used as a greeting of peace and contentment.

/The Apostle Paul used this in the context of a greeting, as well as a true hope or desire for his congregation. *“Keep on having inner happiness (contentment)*.” Your happiness as a Christian does not depend upon outer circumstances, pleasant surroundings, or some level of success recognized out in the world. Divine happiness is associated with real contentment.\

The second word, is translated as *“evermore or always”,* it is a Greek adverb and it means at all times.

When God the Holy Spirit controls the life of the Believer you can have a perfect inner happiness, a perfect stability, at all times.

And your happiness does not depend on circumstances.

This points to a Bel who has moved forward toward maturity and really begins to have great capacity and they learned how to handle adversity.

You can go over to Ephesians chapter two RF.

Happiness is accomplished through grace.

In grace God found a way to share His happiness with man in time and therefore every benefit to man comes through grace.

Contentment is only found in a relationship with GOD - that brings divine happiness, such happiness is confined to the plan of God.

/Eph 2:8 For by **grace you have been saved through faith**; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* **the gift of God**;

Your free will decision to believe upon Christ was a moment of human faith that was deemed a legal standard in eternity past. It has no merit or strength, it was a legal standard that opens up the ministry of God the HS to operate.\

Free will is crucial for salvation but it is not a saving power or a divine ability given by GOD. It is an entrance for GOD the HS to work in your dead flesh and regenerate your soul structure.

It is efficacious grace in action, which is a ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

God does all the wok you reap the benefits!

God’s grace plan is then available to you.

[Eph 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/9/s_1099009) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

/[Eph 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/10/s_1099010) For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand** so that we would walk in them.

Incorporated within the Divine Decree is a call to share in God’s grace plan which means we are called to have divine contentment – that is a choice!\

*SO THAT WE WOULD WALK IN THEM* – is a statement of choice, it is a highlight of free will after salvation.

/Mankind enters the plan of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that was determined, possibly billions of years ago within the justice system of GOD. That was the legal standard determined by GOD - a brief moment of faith in Christ. However, being saved means that such happiness is only potential, not a reality. \

Salvation does not imply instant or automatic happiness.

/*The joy of the Lord which you have at the moment of salvation is a realization of salvation and an application to your life that you are saved, but there is no such thing as instant or automatic happiness because you are saved.*

 *Col. R.B. Thieme Jr.\*

Turn to Colossians chapter one RF.

The moment of salvation may or may not be accompanied by an emotional response. The emotion has nothing to do with salvation.

/The potential of divine happiness only becomes a reality when the Believer gains a level of capacity which is determined at different points of spiritual maturity. Example - Your capacity for wealth or promotion will come at a point when the testing and growth in that area, hit a GOD ordained capacity. When HE can open a gate of blessing already holding grace gifts and rewards from eternity past.\

GOD did everything in eternity past; therefore, blessings and rewards are already in an escrow account for you.

Many Bels never receive all the blessings and rewards God had already stored up for them.

Emotional Bels do not like to hear that, just as they do not like to hear that God’s happiness, is inevitably associated with Bible doctrine.

 REPEAT

Remember the letter to Colosse was a prison epistle from Paul and it was dealing with warnings about the Gnostics and false teachings.

It was designed to get them back on track and focused on what the spiritual life is really all about.

/Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard *about it,* have not ceased praying for you and asking **that you may be filled with the knowledge** (*epignōsis)* **of His will** in all **spiritual wisdom** (*sophia)***and understanding** (*synesis)*,

The Apostle Paul is praying for the highest forms of growth and wisdom.\

We again see the need for free will and effort on the Bels part – THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH KNOWLEDGE.

Telling us this does not fall in your lap at salvation!

*/Epignōsis-* Bible Doctrine mixed with faith ready for application.

*Sophia-* points to the highest forms of divine viewpoint, spiritual wisdom that separates average Bels from Super-grace mature Bels.

*Synesis-*  the discernment to evaluate the spiritual and natural landscape all around the Bel.\

EPI-NOSIS, SOPHIA, SOON-AS-SIS

The Apostle Paul is praying for a higher level of spiritual discernment and spiritual growth to come into their life.

Because the Gnostics were leading them astray.

[Col 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/10/s_1108010) so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

/[Col 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/11/s_1108011) **strengthened with all power**, according to His glorious might, **for the attaining of all perseverance and patience; joyously**

Consistent endurance, patience and a calm assurance of contentment – that brings divine happiness. \

Joyously is taken from the root word we noted for rejoice – it is CHA-RAH. It is a form of pure joy which is not an emotional spasm, but a state of mind - of contentment and inner peace.

[Col 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/12/s_1108012) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Divine happiness in time begins with the filling of the Holy Spirit;

/Gal 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

True happiness (contentment), begins and continues inside the plan of God, which means the filling power of the HS has to be active!\

Divine happiness grows from the filling power of God the HS and continues to build up the soul structure of the positive Bel;

/Jhn 17:16 “They **are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 17 “**Sanctify them in the truth**; Your word is truth.

The Bel becomes set apart from the cosmic system because of the strength in their soul structure. The Edification Complex of the Soul is built up and stronger over time.\

This can become a maximum pinnacle of great joy and contentment for a Super-grace Bel.

/Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and **to make you stand**in the presence of His glory, **blameless with great joy** (*agalliasis)*,

A special anointing in God’s plan for those who reach beyond Spiritual Maturity and touch into Super-grace.\

AH-GAL-LEE-ASIS, In Hebrews 1:9 there is a reference to an anointing of the oil of gladness or the anointing of the oil of God’s joy.

/Heb 1:9 “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, **YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU
WITH THE OIL OF JOY** ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.”

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
**You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows**. \

This is in reference to King David and the blessings and contentment he found in his relationship with the LORD.

Jump over to Philippians chapter four and that is where we will close today.

People seek true happiness which is really contentment – yet they need to get happiness on their terms and that is where the problem lies.

/Just as people wanted the crown before the cross – today, Christians want the rewards and wisdom without any burden or tribulation. They want to be spiritual gurus and yet never pick up a cross and walk with it! People seek GOD on their own terms and not from the truth of scripture and that is where Satan has success. He is the one who enflames the lies of relative truth – everyone has their own truth and in that they are told they can find GOD. That is truly one of the BIG LIES of the modern world. \

Look what the Apostle Paul teaches in relation to real contentment;

Phl 4:9 As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

What is the Apostle Paul saying – he is speaking about learned skills and teaching and practicing BD.

[Phl 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/4/10/s_1107010) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before,* but you lacked an opportunity *to act.*

/Phl 4:11 Not that I speak from need, **for I have learned to be content**in whatever *circumstances* I am.

Bels who expect spiritual skills to simply drop in their lap are being sold a bill of goods from a charismatic teaching and evangelical teaching which is a form of – *name it and claim it*.\

Satan has great success in man-made religion because he is the godfather of religion.

Notice how many times Paul is explaining how he has learned and how he had to grow in knowledge of becoming content.

/[Phl 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/4/12/s_1107012) **I know how to get along with little**, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every *circumstance* **I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry**, both of having **abundance** and **suffering need**.

Suffering, learning and growing all point to a Bel willing to have the humility to sit and study – teachability is a key factor in spiritual growth.\

[Phl 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/4/13/s_1107013) I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

/There are three designations of happiness in the Bible: - there is pseudo happiness; which is nothing more than cosmic system reliance and whatever fleeting happiness it brings you, it is superficial. There is emotional happiness; which is momentary or attached to something or someone giving you that FEELING. Then there is Divine Happiness; which can only be found in an intimacy with God.\

Pseudo happiness and emotional happiness depend upon the details of life, it depends on pleasant environment, stimulating circumstances, having one’s own way, never being denied your desires. However, boredom, frustration, restlessness, instability, and eventually time itself all neutralize this type of happiness. REPEAT

/Our union with Christ and then following the plan of GOD bring contentment. This speaks to establishment principles ordained by GOD. Bible doctrine upheld as the standard for life, liberty and happiness. In depth understanding and relationship with the mind of Christ is the pathway. There is no short-cut, no substitute and no human merit or method that can fulfill this.\