

6. Contentment is Increased Through a Heart of Generosity Discontentment Stems from Selfishness and Hoarding.

Acts 20:35 (NKJV) "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember **the words of the Lord Jesus**, that He said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**'"

2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) "**Each one** must give as he has **decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Proverbs 11:25 (NLT) "**The generous will prosper**; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

Luke 12:21 (NKJV) "So is he who lays up treasure **for himself**, and is **not rich toward God.**"

Ecclesiastes 5:13 (ESV) "There is a **grievous evil** that I have seen under the sun: **riches were kept by their owner to his hurt.**"

7. Contentment Grows Through Godly Perspective Discontentment Results from a Worldly Mindset.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) "And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Psalms 23:1 (ESV) "The Lord is **my shepherd**; I shall not want."

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NLT) "That's **why I take pleasure** in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) "And **do not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind.**"

Living in Contentment

Saturday-Sunday, December 14-15, 2024

Philippians 4:11 (NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am**, to be content:

Philippians 4:12 (NKJV) **I know how** to be abased, and **I know how** to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) **I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.

Ecclesiastes 2:1 (NLT) I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:2 (NLT) So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?"

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (NLT) After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

Ecclesiastes 2:4 (NLT) I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards.

Ecclesiastes 2:5 (NLT) I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees.

Ecclesiastes 2:6 (NLT) I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves.

Ecclesiastes 2:7 (NLT) I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me.

Ecclesiastes 2:8 (NLT) I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire!

Ecclesiastes 2:9 (NLT) So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 (NLT) Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 (NLT)

But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

1. Contentment Comes from Trusting God to Provide.

Discontentment comes from doubting God's Ability to Provide.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) "And **my God shall supply** all your need **according to His riches** in glory by Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV) "Keep your life **free from love of money**, and **be content** with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Matthew 6:31-32 (NLT) "So **don't worry** about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' **These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers**, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs."

Psalms 78:19 (NKJV) "Yes, **they spoke against God**: They said, 'Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?'"

James 4:3 (ESV) "You ask and do not receive, because **you ask wrongly**, to spend it on **your passions**."

2. Contentment is Rooted in Knowing God's Strength Discontentment Is Rooted in Relying on Your Own Strength.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) "I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me."

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV) "But he said to me, '**My grace** is sufficient for you, for **my power** is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Isaiah 40:29 (NLT) "He gives **power** to the weak and **strength** to the powerless."

Jeremiah 17:5 (ESV) "Thus says the Lord: '**Cursed** is the man who **trusts in man** and makes flesh his strength, whose **heart turns away** from the Lord.'"

Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV) "**Trust** in the Lord **with all your heart**, and **lean not** on your own understanding."

3. Contentment Increases with Gratitude Discontentment Thrives on Complaining and Comparison.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV) "**In everything give thanks**; for this is **the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you."

Colossians 3:15 (NLT) "And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And **always be thankful**."

Psalms 107:1 (ESV) "Oh **give thanks to the Lord**, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Philippians 2:14 (NLT) "**Do everything without** complaining and arguing."

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV) "For **we dare not** class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are **not wise**."

4. Contentment Thrives on Stewardship, Not Ownership. Discontentment Seeks Fulfillment in Excess and Materialism.

Psalms 24:1 (NKJV)

The **earth is the Lord's**, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NLT) "For **God bought you with a high price**. So you must honor God with your body."

1 Corinthians 7:23 (ESV) "**You were bought with a price**; do not become bondservants of men."

1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV) "Now **godliness with contentment** is **great gain**."

Proverbs 15:16 (NLT) "**Better to have little with fear** for the Lord than to have **great treasure and inner turmoil**."

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NKJV) "**He who loves silver will not be satisfied** with silver; **nor he who loves abundance**, with increase. This also is vanity."

James 5:5 (ESV) "You have lived on the earth in luxury and in **self-indulgence**."

5. Contentment is Maintained by Focusing on Eternal Things Discontentment Comes from Focusing on Temporary Things.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV) "While **we do not look at the things which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but **the things which are not seen are eternal**."

Matthew 6:20 (ESV) "But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Colossians 3:2 (NLT) "**Think about** the things of heaven, not the things of earth."

Luke 12:15 (ESV) "Take care, and **be on your guard against** all covetousness, for one's **life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions**."