

# Contentment

Intro: So many people today are unhappy or discontented with their lives. Many seek happiness in obtaining material things: a new car, or computer, or smartphone, or this or that, thinking it will bring them happiness. When monthly payments come, the happiness fades quickly. As we age, our health often deteriorates, and we desire our vim and vigor to be revived. It is appropriate to pray concerning our, and others, health. John had a desire for Gaius to be in health; 3 John 1-2 “<sup>1</sup>The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” However, it becomes easy to become discontented. We grumble and complain about so many things like the weather (too hot or cold, too wet or dry, etc.).

## I. BE CONTENT

### A. Learning to accept what we have.

1. 1 Tim. 6:6-8 “<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup>And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”
2. Phi. 4:11-13 “<sup>11</sup>Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. <sup>12</sup>I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

### B. Nothing wrong with working to improve our situation

1. Still learn to content with what we have.
2. Count our blessings (Song: Count Your Many Blessings).

## II. BE CONTENT KNOWING GOD WILL NEVER FORSAKE US.

### A. We should not become preoccupied with material things.

1. Heb. 13:5-6 “<sup>5</sup>Let your conversation be without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. <sup>6</sup>So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”
2. This life is uncertain at best.
  - a. We might not always have the religious freedoms we now have.
  - b. Things in this life in which we have taken for granted may not be as secure as we might have thought.

### B. We are citizens of another country.

1. 1 Pet. 2:11 “<sup>11</sup>Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
2. Heb. 11:14-16 “<sup>14</sup>For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. <sup>15</sup>And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. <sup>16</sup>But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”

## III. WE HAVE CONSOLATION KNOWING GOD WILL NEVER CHANGE.

### A. What God promises will take place.

1. Mal. 3:6 “<sup>6</sup>For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”
2. Heb. 13:8 “<sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

### B. We need to believe in the providence of God.

1. Gen. 50:20 “<sup>20</sup>But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.”
2. Phi. 4:19 “<sup>19</sup>But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

3. Mat. 6:25-34 <sup>25</sup>Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? <sup>26</sup>Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? <sup>27</sup>Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? <sup>28</sup>And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: <sup>29</sup>And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup>(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. <sup>33</sup>But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. <sup>34</sup>Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.”

#### IV. WHAT WE VALUE WILL EITHER ENABLE US TO BE CONTENT OR NEVER SATISFIED.

##### A. Riches

1. One is not condemned for being rich.
2. The trouble is when we place an emphasis on wealth over the spiritual.
3. Mat. 6:19-21 <sup>19</sup>Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup>But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

##### B. Those who trust in riches.

1. Luke 12:15 <sup>15</sup>And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”
2. Notice those who would be rich; 1 Tim. 6:9-10 <sup>9</sup>But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
3. Then to those who are rich they are not to trust in uncertain riches.
  - a. 1 Tim. 6:17-19 <sup>17</sup>Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; <sup>18</sup>That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; <sup>19</sup>Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
  - b. When we trust in riches, we learn the lack of security of them.

#### V. AREAS WE SHOULD NEVER BE CONTENT.

##### A. Knowledge of God's Word

1. Peter encourages such:
  - a. 1 Pet. 2:2-3 <sup>2</sup>As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: <sup>3</sup>If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.”
  - b. 2 Pet. 3:18 <sup>18</sup>But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
2. The Hebrews were reprimanded for failure; Heb. 5:12-14 <sup>12</sup>For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. <sup>13</sup>For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup>But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

3. Knowledge of God's Word helps overcome sin.
  - a. Psa. 119:11 <sup>11</sup> "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
  - b. Jesus overcame temptation through knowing the Truth; Mat. 4:1-11 <sup>1</sup> "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. <sup>3</sup> And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. <sup>5</sup> Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup> And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup> Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. <sup>11</sup> Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."
  - c. Eph. 6:16 <sup>16</sup> "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

#### **B. Prayer life**

1. We often need to be taught to pray; Luke 11:1 <sup>1</sup> "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
2. We need to be praying constantly.
  - a. 1 The. 5:17 <sup>17</sup> "Pray without ceasing."
  - b. Rom. 12:12 <sup>12</sup> "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;"
  - c. Col. 4:2 <sup>2</sup> "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"
  - d. Luke 18:1 <sup>1</sup> "And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
3. Prayer brings contentment.
  - a. Phi. 4:6-7 <sup>6</sup> "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
  - b. 1 Pet. 5:7 <sup>7</sup> "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
4. Thus, we should never be content with our prayer life.

#### **C. Our work for the Lord's church.**

1. There is always work to do in the Lord's kingdom.
  - a. 1 Cor. 3:9 <sup>9</sup> "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building."
  - b. 1 Cor. 15:58 <sup>58</sup> "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
  - c. We are to be zealous for good works; Tit. 2:14 <sup>14</sup> "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
2. There is work to do in the local congregation.
  - a. We need members to be involved (more involved) in the local congregation.
  - b. Visits need to be made (to services, hospital, sick, etc.).
  - c. Phone calls and cards.
  - d. Providing food.
  - e. Classes to be taught.
  - f. In so many congregations, there is more work to be done than workers.

**D. Speaking to others about salvation.**

1. The marching orders for the church and every disciple is the Great Commission.
  - a. Mat. 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
  - b. Mark 16:15-16 <sup>15</sup>And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
  - c. Luke 24:46-47 <sup>46</sup>And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: <sup>47</sup>And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
2. There are lost souls all around us, we need to do our best to teach the saving Gospel to all we can.

Conclusion: Life here is short and no one knows if we will be here tomorrow (Jam. 4:14 <sup>14</sup>Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”). The only important thing to hear after death is: “Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of thy Lord.” Living the type of lifestyle to hear those words brings true contentment.