

# Contentment

## Satisfaction in God regardless of circumstances

Contentment represents one of the rarest and most valuable graces in Christian experience. In a culture driven by endless acquisition and comparison, biblical contentment stands as countercultural witness. It is not complacency or lack of ambition but deep satisfaction in God that liberates from the tyranny of want.

The apostle Paul declared: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). Notice he "learned" contentment—it was not automatic but cultivated through experience and faith. He specified both abundance and want, prosperity and need (4:12). True contentment does not depend on circumstances because its foundation is unchanging: God Himself and His promises.

Scripture identifies covetousness as both idolatry and a root of many evils. "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). "Covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). In contrast, "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). The truly rich person is not one who has the most but one who needs the least, being satisfied in God.

Cultivating contentment requires focus on eternal realities, gratitude for present blessings, trust in God's provision, and freedom from comparison. "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Timothy 6:8). This simplicity liberates for generosity, ministry, and enjoyment of God without the burden of insatiable desire.

## Learning Contentment

### Paul's example

**Philippians 4:11-12** — I have learned to be content

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

**Philippians 4:13** — I can do all things through Christ

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**1 Timothy 6:6** — Godliness with contentment

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

**1 Timothy 6:8** — Food and raiment, be content

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

## Freedom from Covetousness

### Avoiding the love of money

**Hebrews 13:5** — Be content, He will never leave

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.

**Luke 12:15** — Life consisteth not in abundance

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.

**1 Timothy 6:10** — Love of money is root of evil

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.

**Proverbs 30:8-9** — Give me neither poverty nor riches

Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

## Trust in God's Provision

### Confidence in divine care

**Matthew 6:31-33** — Seek first the kingdom

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

**Psalms 37:25** — Never seen the righteous forsaken

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

**Philippians 4:19** — God shall supply all your need

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**Psalms 23:1** — The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want

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