

# Practice Being Contented!

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We practice many things to learn a skill or the ability to do something, but practicing contentment is usually not something we do. There is so much of so many things today that being content seems to be out of our reach or just something we do not need to learn.

God is clear in reminding us that we *do* need to learn this. NKJV 1 Timothy 6:7 “*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*”

The world, by choice, is in a continual state of *discontent*—but *materialism* leads to *coveting* and *coveting* to *greed*—taking us deeper into the sin of always wanting more, the best, and the latest, but never saying *Thanks, Lord for Your many blessings*, and never learning to be content with what we already have.

In a world that is content *only* with the *latest* and the *best*, the believer should be thanking God for the blessed privilege of knowing His *Truth* that is leading us to *Heaven*. With the many blessings we have already received, and the multitude of good things already enjoyed—our giving thanks to God should *never* cease!

The *value* of knowing God’s Truth cannot have a dollar figure, but most people do not *know* the Truth, nor do they *know* the God in whom they should trust. AV John 17:3 “*This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*” Unfortunately,

most people would not *live* His Truth even if they *did* know it.

John told those who came for baptism—but who did *not* show any sign of *repentance* NKJV Luke 3:9, “*Even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*”

Fruits of repentance would be doing what he *told* them to do—and *learning* to be *content* with what God had already given them. AV Luke 3:11 “*He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath [food], let him do likewise.*” To others 13 “*Exact no more than that which is appointed you.*” And to soldiers 14 “*Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.*”

John told them to *be content with their pay*, but that advice is universally rejected by the world. The desire for *more* money and *higher* wages is so widespread today that no one seems content with what they are paid; even though God clearly says AV 1 Timothy 6:8 “*Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*”

A poll of wage-earners—and asking what they would *like* to be paid—and regardless of whether they were earning *minimum* wage or a *high* salary—said they wanted to make *twice* what they *were* paid. The human heart is never satisfied—until it is *converted* by God—by our *allowing* Him to *teach* us to be *contented*!

We *pray* for a *contented* spirit and a *thankful* heart for the many things God continues to provide. Contentment is a secret that can be *known* AV Philippians 4:12—“*For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*” NIV 12 “*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.*”

The *secret* of contentment is discovered in the *will* of God—and the *will of God* is explained in the *Word of God*. NKJV 1 John 2:17 “*The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*” The will of God is to *not covet* the possessions of others, but to be *content* with the possessions He *has* given us.

God’s Word has advice for every life issue—being content with what we *have*; being content where we *work*; being content with where we *live*—is all part of God’s will. With His help, we can *practice* being contented. NKJV Hebrews 13:5 “*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”* God will provide what we need *when* we need it—we just trust Him in faith to do it.

Satan wants us to be *discontented* about something, with someone, or about anything. He wants us to always desire *more* and never be satisfied with *less*. The will of God is not to always want *more* but be willing to give *away surplus*. **We should be contented with what we have—not resent what we lack.**

The apostle learned how important it was to persevere in faith and to keep doing what God wanted him to do. He practiced the Christian life and learned that AV 1 Timothy 6:6 “*Godliness with contentment is great gain.*”

The apostle was thankful that some members sent him gifts—and when they again had the opportunity, they responded in love a second time. The apostle appreciated that—saying Philippians 4:10 NIV, “*I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.*”

The apostle wasn’t trying to see how many things he could *collect*, but how faith in God could be *applied*. He was a *prisoner* in Rome; *confined*

to an apartment Acts 28:30; and *guarded* by a soldier Acts 28:16. He was under *house arrest* and not allowed to work to pay expenses. But in that situation, he still had the choice to *trust* God to *provide* what he needed, one day at a time. Expressing his thanks shows he *practiced being content* in spite of difficult circumstances. His letter reflects his *confidence* in God's *promises* to provide—no matter what the situation was. He knew *God* controlled everything so if he *met* the situation scripturally, the promise of—AV Romans 8:28 that “*All things work together for good to them that love God,*” would be fulfilled.

If the apostle practiced being content and trusting God for strength and guidance each day, things would work out for the best eventually. He was *sure* that God would take care of him—he just had to *practice being content* in any situation. The Holy Spirit had shown him that *wants* and *needs* were two different things.

Each morning we ask God to show us any attitude in our *heart* that is not in accordance with His *will*, and for the ability to make *corrections in direction* or *changes in attitude*. He had learned that NKJV 1 John 2:17 “*He who does the will of God abides forever.*”

It is *not* the will of God to keep accumulating *more* things and stockpiling *more* possessions way beyond our needs—with never a thought of who could use the extra we have. Jesus said AV Matthew 6:32-33 (“*After all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

Our Christian responsibility is to keep *trusting* God in faith—*then* He provides our needs in the moment. Regardless of our present situation there is no need to worry, but there is a *faith to practice*. If we will *trust* God in faith, He

will prove *faithful* to His promise. *Outward* circumstances should have no *effect* on our *inner* contentment.

It is true that those with the *most things* are often the *most unhappy*. They do not *know* the secret because they have not *read* the Book on contentment. More *money* does not mean more *contentment*. Most people think that God does *not* provide things for them today, but the believer in Christ has faith in God that He *will provide* all that is needed and beyond.

Jesus gave this advice about entering the kingdom—He said to “*Sell,*” and “*give to the poor,*” because this would NIV Luke 12:33 “*Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted.*” He then added “*Where your treasure is,*” there your *heart* is 34. We accept His advice and trust God in faith—each day. What we do with our *treasure* shows the attitude of our *heart*.

The apostle tells us AV 1 John 2:15 “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*”

Jesus told us that it is not possible to *love God* and *love the world* at the same time. AV Luke 16:13 “*No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*”

NKJV 16:14 “*Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. 15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God **knows** your hearts. For what is highly*

*esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*”

We are to be *separate from the world* and not always desire things *of* the world. Unbelievers are preoccupied with fulfilling every desire and never asking if it *is* God's will. The world puts much effort in stockpiling things that are seen—*lust of his eyes*.

The human heart can be *obsessed* with *pride*—*boasting of what it can do and what it possesses*. The *serpent* tempted *Eve* with these very things, but God wants to see the *opposite* in us—*lowliness* of mind and *humility* of heart.

Trusting God in faith to provide the *needs* of the moment is always the *right* attitude. If we will maintain that attitude, God will enable us to take inventory of what He has already given so we can say, *Thanks, Lord, for your many blessings. Forgive me for not realizing how blessed I am to know Your truth and to trust in the Atonement Blood shed for me, by Your Son for the salvation of my soul!*

If we will keep our *faith* and *trust* in Him to provide our needs each day, and to *practice being contented*, God AV Philippians 4:19 “*Shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” Of *that* we can be sure!

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**Scripture verses:**

1 Timothy 6:6-8  
John 17:3  
Luke 3:9-14  
Luke 12:33  
Luke 16:13-15

1 John 2:15-17  
Hebrews 13:5  
Philippians 4:10-12, 19  
Romans 8:28  
Matthew 6:32-33

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