

Appreciate What You Have

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1 Tim. 6:8 *If we have enough food and clothing*
Jn 17:3 *This is life eternal, that they might know*
Lk 3:11 *He that hath two coats, let him give one*
Lk 3:13 *Exact no more than that which is*
Lk 3:14 *Do violence to no man, neither accuse*
Lk 3:9 *The ax is laid to the root of the trees*
Phil. 4:11 *I have learned in whatsoever state*

1 There is so much of so many things today that *appreciating what we have* doesn't enter our thoughts very often. But God says NLT **1 Timothy 6:8** "*If we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.*"

2 The world seems in a continual state of *discontent*, but *materialism* leads to *coveting* and *coveting* to *greed* and *greed* to wanting more, better, or newest but never saying *Thanks, Lord for Your blessings on me!*

3 In a world that is content *only* with the *latest*, the *best*, and the *most*, the believer should be thanking God for the privilege of knowing His *Truth* and the living *hope* of entering *Paradise!*

4 It is time to *Appreciate What We Have* and begin thanking God for the blessings we enjoy

from His gracious hand—most certainly the *forgiveness* by faith in His Son's sacrifice.

5 Appreciating what God has blessed us with is an essential practice that invites *gratitude* and *humility* into our heart.

6 Every day, we are surrounded by countless gifts, both big and small, from the air we breathe to the people we love.

7 Often, in the rush of daily life, it is easy to overlook these blessings or take them for granted.

8 But when we pause and reflect on all the blessings God has provided, we begin to recognize the *abundance* we already have.

9 Whether it is the *love* of family, the *beauty* of nature, or *knowing* of His Truth—each gift is a reminder of God's love, mercy, and grace.

10 By appreciating these blessings, we begin to have a deeper sense of God's goodness and peace in our heart and realizing that true contentment does not come from what we *lack*, but from what we already *have!*

11 The value of knowing God's Truth cannot be computed—most people in the world do not *know* the Truth nor the *God* in whom they *should* trust.

12 AV **John 17:3** "*This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*"

13 If we do not appreciate what God has already given us, it is time to *repent* of that and to ask Him to give us a true spirit of *contentment*.

14 The Word instructs—AV **Luke 3:11** "*He that hath two coats, let him [share with NIV] him that hath none; and he that hath [food], let him do likewise.*"

15 Some publicans asked **12** "*What shall we do?*" John replied **13** "*Exact no more than that which is appointed you.*"

16 And to soldiers **14** "*Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.*"

17 Seeing the fruits of repentance is essential. John told those who came for baptism—but had not *shown* these fruits

18 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.*"

19 John told them the importance of "*Being content with your wages,*" but this is universally rejected by the world.

20 The desire for more money and higher wages is a global issue today—no one seems content with what they earn.

21 Most workers admit that—regardless of earning *minimum* wage or a *high* salary, they want to make *twice* what they are being paid.

22 The human heart is never satisfied—until it is *converted* by God—and He alone can give us a spirit of *contentment!*

23 We need to ask God to help us *appreciate what we have*—everything came from Him!

24 Contentment is a *secret* that can be *known* by anyone. AV **Philippians 4:11** "*I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*"

25 The apostle experienced times of being without and times of having plenty—NIV **12** "*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.*"

26 The will of God is to *not covet* what others *have* but to *be content* with what He has already *given*.

27 The *secret* of contentment is discovered in the *will* of God—which is found in the *Word of God*.

28 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.*"

29 Contentment is *learned* from God—who enables us to be content where we *work*; being satisfied with our *house*, the *car*, and our *neighborhood*.

30 NKJV Hebrews 13:5 “*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.*”

31 There is so much *more* we can *do* with what we already *possess*. And we begin by **appreciating** what God has given and learning more about them—be it a computer program, a digital keyboard, a smartphone, or a power tool!

32 The devil wants us to be *discontented* or *dissatisfied* about something; with someone; or about anything—always tempting us to want *more* and *new* and *better*.

33 But we should be willing to *give away* rather than keep *getting more*.

34 *Appreciating what we have*, strengthens our faith in God. When we acknowledge that all we have is a result of His mercy, we develop a spirit of thankfulness that goes far beyond material possessions.

35 It shifts our focus from selfish desires to a greater appreciation for the spiritual gifts that truly enrich our lives—love, peace, hope, and God’s purpose for our life.

36 When we recognize God’s blessings, it encourages us to be more generous and compassionate toward others, *sharing* what we have received—reflecting God’s goodness and love.

37 As we maintain an *attitude of gratitude*, we draw closer to God—living in a way that honors *His* gifts and magnifies *His* glory.

38 The apostle was not concerned about how many things he could *collect*, but how his faith in God could be *applied*.

39 He was a *prisoner* in Rome Acts 28:30, *confined* to an apartment; *guarded* by a soldier—but he could still *trust* God to *provide* what he needed. He knew—AV Romans 8:28 “*All things work together for good to them that love God.*”

40 If the apostle would keep trusting God for strength, courage, and contentment, God would give him all three.

41 He knew the Lord would take care of him and the Holy Spirit would enlighten him to know the difference between *wants* and *needs*!

42 Each day we should ask God to reveal any attitude that is not in accordance with His *will*, and for the ability to make needed corrections.

43 NIV 1 John 2:17 “*The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*”

44 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.*

45 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

46 We just need to keep trusting God for the needs of the moment. No matter what our present situation may be, there is no room for worry—but there *is* a *faith* to apply—and God will help us put that faith into practice.

47 It is a consensus that people with the *most things* are generally the *most unhappy*. They do not *know* the secret because they have not *read* the Book. More *money* does not equal more *contentment*.

48 Most people think that God does *not* actually provide things for people, but the believer in Christ proves them wrong. Those who live by faith in God know that He *will provide* all that is needed and more.

49 Jesus tells us to “*Sell,*” and “*give to the poor,*” because doing this would NIV Luke 12:33 “*Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted.*” **34** “*Where your treasure is*” there your *heart* is.

50 We are *not* to be *of* the world, *nor* constantly desiring things *in* the world, because unbelievers are preoccupied with trying to satisfy every desire—yet never asking if it is God’s will.

51 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.*”

52 We need to be on guard against *pride* that can easily enter our heart—boasting about what we have *learned*; what we can *do*; or what we possess.

53 The *serpent* tempted *Eve* with these very things, but God wants to see the *opposite* in us—*lowliness* of mind and *humility* of heart.

54 Trusting God in faith to provide the needs of the moment is the *right* attitude.

55 By the grace of God, may we be able to take inventory of what He has already given us and say...

56 *Thanks, Lord, for so many blessings. Forgive me for not realizing how blessed I am to know Your truth and to be able to trust in Your Son who gave His life for my life!*



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