

CULTIVATE CONTENTMENT

1 Timothy 6:6-8, Philippians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:5

- **The Bible teaches us many principles about how to manage money, save money, invest money and live financially successful lives.**
- **One principle the Bible teaches is that we will never experience financial freedom if *our yearnings exceed our earnings*.**
- *"True godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content."* (1 Timothy 6:6-8)
- **Businesses and marketing want us to spend more, and most of the time they're not concerned about our financial health and stability.**
- **The Bible teaches us that if we mix godliness with contentment, we will experience true wealth in our lives.**
- ***What are some of the steps to living by the principle of Contentment?***

Living Contented Lives Requires:

UNDERSTANDING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DISCONTENTMENT

- *"Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people."* (Ephesians 5:3)
- **Discontentment causes us to experience more *Exhaustion* in our lives.**
    - **Many people stay tired all of the time because they are overworking or because they are always scheming.**
    - **Many people give up their health in the early part of their lives to make money; then give up their money in the latter part of their lives to gain health.**
- **Discontentment causes us to experience more *Expenses* in our lives.**

    - *"The more you have the more people come to help you spend it. So what is the advantage of wealth - except perhaps to watch it run through your fingers!"* (Ecclesiastes 5:11)
- **Discontentment causes us to experience more *Anxiety* in our lives.**
    - *"People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep."* (Ecclesiastes 5:12)
    - **People with lots of money worry about how to save it, invest it, keep it, avoid paying taxes on it, etc.**
- **Discontentment causes us to experience more *Trouble* in our lives.**
    - *"People who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. . . . Some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.* (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
    - **Being greedy brings problems to our lives and to the lives of others around us.**
    - *"Greed brings grief to the whole family."* (Proverbs 15:27)
    - **We have "absentee parents" and "abandoned children" because people aren't content with what the Lord has blessed them with.**
- **Discontentment causes us to experience more *Dissatisfaction* in our lives.**
    - *"Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!"* (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
    - *"Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money; it robs them of life."* (Proverbs 1:19)

***Living Contented Lives Requires**:*

LIVING BY <u>PRACTICES</u> THAT DEVELOP CONTENTMENT

- Paul - *"I have learned how to be content with whatever I have."* (Philippians 4:11)
- *"Be content with what you have . . ."* (Hebrews 13:5)
- ***What are the "secrets" to developing Contentment?***
- **We will learn to be content when we *Stop Comparing Ourselves To Others*.**
    - **The Lord created us each to be unique individuals.**
    - *"We wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!"* (2 Corinthians 10:12)
    - **America's favorite indoor sport is *comparing*.**
    - **We must learn how to admire without having to acquire.**
    - **We don't have to own something in order to enjoy it.**
    - **Comparing ourselves to others and jealousy wanting what others have is a great sin.**

    - The Lord - *"You must not covet your neighbor's house.You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."* (Exodus 20:17)
    - **Desires to have more are not wrong, unless they become uncontrollable or jealous desires.**
- **We will learn to be content when we *Strive To Enjoy What We Have*.**
    - **People often don't enjoy what they already have because they are always going after more.**
    - *"Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment."* (1 Timothy 6:17)
    - **We need to focus on what we have to be grateful rather than what we don't have.**
    - **Happiness is a choice, and we are as happy as we choose to be.**
    - **Money can make our lives easier but not necessarily happier.**
- **We will learn to be content when we *Remember Life Is Not About Things*.**
    - Jesus - *"Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."* (Luke 12:15)
    - **We should never judge our self-worth by our net-worth.**
    - **Life is not about acquiring things or even achievements; life is about relationships.**
    - The Prayer of Agur - *"O God, I beg two favors from You; let me have them before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name."* (Proverbs 30:7-9)
- **We will learn to be content when we *Focus On What Will Last Forever*.**
    - **We need to build our lives on permanent values and eternal priorities.**
    - **Every possession is temporary, so we shouldn't focus on possessing possessions.**
    - **There are only two things that are going to last forever - the Word of God (Isaiah 40:8) and People.**
    - *"We fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."* (2 Corinthians 4:18)
    - **We have to decide if we're going to focus our lives on possessions or on people.**

- Jesus - *"Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."* (Luke 12:15)

- **People who are focused on having more often have a lot to live on, but they don't have a lot to live for.**
- The Apostle Paul - *"I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. . . . with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:11-13)
- **The secret of contentment is finding our security and satisfaction in our relationship with the Lord.**
- *"My contentment is not in wealth but in seeing You (Lord) and knowing all is well between us. And when I awake in heaven, I will be fully satisfied, for I will see You face-to-face."* (Psalm 17:15 TLB)