

## Is Contentment Possible?

The Apostle Paul made two wonderful statements concerning contentment. First, what he had learned: “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I 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: (Philippians 4:11-12). Second, what this knowledge has taught him: “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:6-7).

Everyone desires contentment, but in our generation, or our age, it’s practically a foreign concept.

Our culture is in search of the next luxury, the next experience. We are never full, and there’s a reason for that. We listen to the wrong voice. No matter where you look, you are assaulted with images and slogans designed to provoke you to covet what you do not have. Those slogans say: You deserve more, you deserve better, you deserve something new, and you deserve the right to just get away and relax. So off we go, chasing the next fleeting pleasure.

Our grandparents never thought like that. They never dreamed of having what our generation has. And they did not have to have what we are told we must have.

We have thousands of amenities that make life easier for us. Yet, in this high-tech age of comfort, our people have no real comfort, and it is for sure they have no real contentment. In fact, the very technology that provides so much convenience is a major catalyst in making people discontented.

True contentment has nothing to do with all the things that our culture says will bring contentment. Contentment can’t be bought. Contentment can’t be found in circumstances or relationships. But contentment is possible.

True, lasting contentment comes only from knowing and trusting the Lord. And it is this contentment that Paul enjoyed when he penned Philippians 4:11-12 and 1 Timothy 6:6-7.

One writer said contentment is “an unyielding confidence in God’s providence and provision. It’s the freedom from worry you and I enjoy because we know the Lord is at work in our trials and joys. It’s not a question of poverty or prosperity, or any external circumstance. True contentment endures in spite of our circumstances; it does not rise and fall with every turn or providence.”

The only real and lasting satisfaction that you can have in this life is found in a right relationship with God.

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