

All That I Need: Learning Contentment

I. Contentment is **NOT** . . .

- A. . . . a result of _____ people, being in the _____ place with _____ circumstances.
- B. . . . _____ that blindly ignores the unpleasant, negative, and unsatisfying things that are around us.
- C. . . . the same as _____ (which is an emotion that comes from pleasant circumstances).
- D. . . . a _____ state in which one accepts whatever comes along in life.

II. Contentment **IS** . . .

A. . . . translated in the Greek "all that you need" (1 Timothy 6:6) or "all sufficient"—or enough (2 Cor. 9:8). In 2 Cor. 12:9, the Lord uses the same word for "content" when He told Paul that "my grace is *sufficient* for you."

- *John 14:8
- *1 Timothy 6:6-8
- *Hebrews 13:5
- *Matthew 25:9 (enough); Luke 3:14; John 6:7 (sufficient)
- *2 Corinthians 3:5
- *2 Corinthians 9:8

B. . . . _____ to _____ on _____ and not on self or circumstance even in the midst of difficult and unpleasant circumstances. (Notice it is a _____, and it can be learned—Paul in Philippians 4:11—and not a natural quality!)

C. . . . believing God is _____ no matter how the circumstances of life appear (Psalm 37:23).

D. . . . _____ go of the reins of my life with MY personal desires or plans and letting _____ for my life unfold—placing more importance on God's plans than my own plans.

E. . . . being _____ with just _____. When God alone is enough for me.

- *Psalm 17:15; Hebrews 13:5

Being discontent is questioning the goodness and sufficiency of God!

III. Areas of Contentment

A. _____ / _____ (Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:6-11; Hebrews 13:5)

1. All that we have comes from God (Deut. 8:17-18; I Chron. 29:11-13; Ps. 50:12; Prov. 10:22; Eccl. 5:18-20).
2. We are to be wise stewards--managers of all that God gives us whether little or much. (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 12:41-48; I Cor. 4:2).
3. We are to share with those who have less than we do (Deut. 15:7-11; Prov. 3:27-28; 11:24-25; 19:17; 22:9; 28:27; 31:20; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).

B. _____ / _____ --Who we are, what we do in the secular work place or the church (1 Cor. 10:31)

1. Contentment is striving to be faithful and not first (see I Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4:11-16).
2. Our vocational calling is also from God and must be looked upon as a spiritual responsibility! (EVEN if "just a housewife/mother" which can lend itself to being discontent).

C. _____ of _____ --God's care and control of everything and all circumstances that come into our lives (Phil. 4:11—whatever "state").

1. We do not always know what is best for us (Is. 55:8-9).
2. We can't see the finished puzzle, only one piece at a time.
3. God's grace is sufficient (all that I need, enough) for any circumstance we face (2 Cor. 12:9), and we must claim Philippians 4:13—God's divine enablement! (See also Romans 8:28; 2 Cor. 3:5).

Resources: *Finding Contentment in a Disappointing World* by Kathy C. Miller
The Practice of Godliness by Jerry Bridges