

FIVE SECRETS TO CONTENTMENT

Cultivating Character – Part 3

July 20, 2014

Philippians 4:12 (NIV) *“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.”*

FIVE SECRETS OF CONTENTMENT...

1. Understand the POWER of contentment.

Contentment is not SETTLING for less.

Ephesians 3:20 (NCV) *“With God’s power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything that we ask or imagine.”*

Contentment is TRUSTING God’s power in any circumstance.

Three Ways Of Living Life...

- You can GIVE up.
- You can GEAR up.
- You can LOOK up.

2. Deal with the ENEMY of contentment.

The enemy of contentment is COMPARISON.

Galatians 6:4 (MSG) *“Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work that you’ve been given. Then sink yourself into that. Don’t be impressed with yourself. Don’t compare yourself with others.”*

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV) *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you.’”*

Matthew 20:14-15 (NIV) *“Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I’m generous?”*

3. Be content with LITTLE or with MUCH.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 (NCV) *“It is better to be content with what little you have. Otherwise, you will always be struggling for more, and that’s like chasing the wind.”*

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NIV) *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it, ⁸but if we have food and clothing we will be content with that.”*

Proverbs 30:8b-9a (TLB) *“Give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. ⁹For if I grow rich, I may deny You and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’”*

4. Carefully choose what you PURSUE.

1 Timothy 6:10-11 (NLT) *“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. ¹¹But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.”*

5. Rely on the STRENGTH of Christ.

Contentment is not found in circumstances.
It is found in Jesus Christ!

Philippians 4:13 (NCV) *“I can do all things through Christ, because He gives me strength.”*

Contentment is God’s promise for your life...
but you have to learn His secrets to be content.