

Contentment

Our Responsibilities:

Toward God:

Fear God and Keep His commandments

Moses

Deuteronomy 6:2 That thou mightest **fear the LORD thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments**, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy **days may be prolonged**.

^{KJV} **Deuteronomy 7:9** Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

^{KJV} **Deuteronomy 11:1** Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.

Deuteronomy 8:6 Therefore thou shalt **keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him**.

^{KJV} **Deuteronomy 11:22** For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

Deuteronomy 13:4 Ye shall **walk after the LORD** your God, and **fear Him, and keep His commandments**, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

^{KJV} **Deuteronomy 30:16** In that I command thee this day to **love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments**, that thou mayest **live and multiply**: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Joshua

^{KJV} **Joshua 22:5** But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to **love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments**, and to **cleave unto Him**, and to **serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul**.

Daniel

^{KJV} **Daniel 9:4** And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that **love him, and to them that keep his commandments**;

Solomon

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear **the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man**.

John

^{KJV} **1 John 5:2** By this we know that **we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments**.

^{KJV} **1 John 5:3** For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. [They bring contentment]**

March 25, 2012 – Contentment

It is our ability to be content in life!

Certainly, Our ability to be content begins with God.

...to remain content in life is to be content with God.

Contentment

Our Responsibilities: *(cont)*

Toward God: *(cont)*

^{KJV} **1 John 4:11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

^{KJV} **1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

To Family:

Toward the Spouse:

Love your spouse

Provide for her

Her to provide for His home

Husbands To Die for the wife

Exodus 21:5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to **love their wives as their own bodies**. He that **loveth his wife loveth himself**.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless **let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself**; and the **wife see that she reverence her husband**.

Reverence - to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience

Toward Children:

Love your children

Raise children in the nurture and admonition of the LORD

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, **provoke not your children to wrath**: but **bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord**.

Titus 2:4 That they may **teach the young women** to be sober, to **love their husbands**, to **love their children**,

Lay it up for the children

2 Corinthians 12:14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: **for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children**. (2Co 12:14 KJV)

We have children not so they may provide for us. We have the responsibility of storing up for the children.

Contentment

Our Responsibilities: (*cont*)

Toward Parents:

To Love, honor and obey

Ephesians 6:1 Children, **obey your parents** in the Lord: for this is right.

Colossians 3:20 Children, **obey your parents in all things**: for this is **well pleasing** unto the Lord.

^{KJV} **Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother**: that thy **days may be long** upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exo 20:12 KJV)

^{KJV} **Deuteronomy 5:16 Honour thy father and thy mother**, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may **go well with thee**, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Deu 5:16 KJV)

^{KJV} **Matthew 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother**: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Mat 19:19 KJV)

^{KJV} **Mark 7:10** For Moses said, **Honour thy father and thy mother**; and, **Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death**: (Mar 7:10 KJV)

^{KJV} **Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother**; (which is the **first commandment with promise**;) (Eph 6:2 KJV)

Toward Friends:

To Love, listen and watch

Share the WORD

^{KJV} **Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times**, and a **brother is born for adversity**. (Pro 17:17 KJV)

Be careful in the accumulation of friends. Follow Christ

(it is not our responsibility to make worldly friends)

^{KJV} **Proverbs 18:24** A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend **that sticketh closer than a brother**. (Pro 18:24 KJV)

^{KJV} **James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **friendship of the world is enmity with God**? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Contentment

Our Responsibilities: (cont)

Toward the Enemy:

To Love, listen, agree when in the way with them
Feed them when they are hungry
Give them water when they are thirsty
Preach the WORD

^{KJV} **Matthew 5:44** But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them** that curse you, **do good to them** that hate you, and **pray for them** which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

^{KJV} **Luke 6:35** But **love ye your enemies**, and **do good**, and **lend**, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for **He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.**

^{KJV} **Matthew 5:45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Toward Myself:

Care for your body, the temple of the living God.
Work for food
Leave behind childish things
Study to show myself approved

^{KJV} 1 Corinthians 6

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your **body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of **God**, and **ye are not your own?** (1Co 6:19 KJV)

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God's.**

And now I am content! ...or am I.

How could it be possible that I understand...and still I am discontent?

^{KJV} **Colossians 2:10** And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Col 2:10 KJV)

Complete - 4137 πληρόω pleroo {play-ro'-o}

Meaning: 1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full 1a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally 1a1) I abound, I am liberally supplied 2) to render full, i.e. to complete 2a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim 2b) to consummate: a number 2b1) to make complete in every particular, to render perfect 2b2) to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out, (some undertaking) 2c) to carry into effect, bring to realization, realize 2c1) of matters of duty: to perform, execute 2c2) of sayings, promises, prophecies, to bring to pass, ratify, accomplish 2c3) to fulfil, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfillment

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...to remain content in life is to be content with God.

Contentment

I read the whole Holy Bible and I do believe it is the inerrant Word of God, and it is absolutely precise and true. God has led me through extraordinary opportunities to **prove its inerrancy** and to even **prove** that it is **absolutely the precise record** of the **historical account of Man** as well as the **spiritual account of who God is**. From those Words I know who I am to God **who created me...and I know that I am not God**.

I am just one man who is **content** with knowing its inerrant Truth and **confident** of its precision. I am just one man who knows and **appreciates the spiritual record** of His Word which is true **for every circumstance encountered in life**.

So how could it be possible that now I am discontent with my life?! I am not discontent. Rather I know that **my ability to be content in life begins with God**. Hallelujah!

I have learned that **to remain content in life is to be content with God**.

Therefore in every circumstance we encounter we are to learn to be content!

Philippians 4

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

Content - 842 *αὐτάρκης* autarkes {ow-tar'-kace}

Meaning: 1) sufficient for one's self, strong enough or processing enough to need no aid or support 2) independent of external circumstances 3) contented with one's lot, with one's means, though the slenderest

Origin: from 846 and 714; TDNT - 1:466,78; adj

Usage: AV - content 1; 1

¹² I know both how to be **abased**, and I know 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.

¹³ **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

^{KJV} **Ecclesiastes 7:19** Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty *men* which are in the city.

I know that my discontentment is a spiritual battle. While Men of God may all agree, we will also agree that we are not always prepared for the battle. But this I do know and, in hope, rely upon God in faith: **My ability to be content in life begins with God**.

In the beginning of my relationship with the Father, I knew that I was loved and nurtured by our Creator. Major changes occurred in my lifestyle and I grew content to know that such significant changes in my behavior had only occurred because **God loves me**. I was even confident that God had touched me and thereby had **removed the addictions and afflictions** which I had accumulated my whole life. I even **grew content** in the confidence of what God can do. I read and studied, and prayed earnestly, and went to church; I was **growing more content** that my life was okay. I knew the Word, I believed the Word, God brought much success in my business, my family was well and our friends were many.

^{KJV} **Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

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When any of our responsibilities get out of line with the WORD of God, you will be discontent whether in wealth or penury.

When life becomes overwhelming, discontentment is around the corner.

Beware but do not despair!

In the midst of being inundated or flooded with the circumstances of life, we are given responsibilities to keep us in order and CONTENT.

Even my own experience has proven that our relationships with God, Family, Friends, Enemies, and even with myself are not too much to bear when the opportunity to teach the Holy Bible was made possible. I became content in my life WHEN I chose to serve God.

Such an opportunity to teach was more important than all those things that had become a part of my life. My Responsibilities seemed to be in order as my discontentment assuaged with the experience of Bible teaching. God's touch was not to exclude me from being always content.

Therefore, I look back and discover that I was content when I did those things that would proffer the knowledge of who God is. In defiance of worldly manipulation or influence, I was confident and grew content in knowing that the touch of God had not precluded me from my responsibility to serve Him. I am content

Sufficiency

^{KJV} **2 Corinthians 9:8** And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you;** that ye, always having all **sufficiency in all things**, may abound **to every good work:**

Therefore our circumstances without grace bring discontentment, but our circumstances with grace abounding from God, brings sufficiency! Contentment

^{KJV} **2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our **sufficiency is of God;** (2Co 3:5 KJV)

Sufficient - 2425 ἰκανός hikanos {hik-an-os}

Meaning: 1) sufficient 1a) many enough, enough 1b) sufficient in ability, i.e. meet, fit

Origin: from hiko [hikano or hikneomai, akin to 2240] (to arrive); TDNT - 3:293,361; adj

Usage: AV - many 11, much 6, worthy 5, long 4, sufficient 3, misc 12; 41

Notes:

¹ punishment: or, censure

^{KJV} **2 Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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Gainful

^{KJV} 1 Timothy 6

¹ Let as many servants as are under the yoke **count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.**

² And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather *do them* service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to **wholesome words, even the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness**;

Godliness - 2150 εὐσέβεια eusebeia {yoo-seb'-i-ah}

Meaning: 1) reverence, respect 2) piety towards God, godliness

Origin: from 2152; TDNT - 7:175,1010; n f

Usage: AV - godliness 14, holiness 1; 15

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and **strifes of words**, whereof cometh **envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings**,

⁵ **Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness**: from such **withdraw thyself**.

⁶ But **godliness with contentment is great gain**.

Godliness - 2150 εὐσέβεια eusebeia {yoo-seb'-i-ah}

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Usage: AV - godliness 14, holiness 1; 15

Contentment - 841 ἀντάρχεια autarkeia {ow-tar'-ki-ah}

Meaning: 1) a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed 2) sufficiency of the necessities of life 3) a mind contented with its lot, contentment

Origin: from 842; TDNT - 1:466,78; n f

Usage: AV - sufficiency 1, contentment 1; 2

⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content**.

Content - 714 ἀρκέω arkeo {ar-keh'-o}

Meaning: 1) to be possessed of unfailling strength 1a) to be strong, to suffice, to be enough 1a1) to defend, ward off 1b) to be satisfied, to be contented

Origin: apparently a primary word [but probably akin to 142 through the idea of raising a barrier]; TDNT - 1:464,78; v

Usage: AV - be content 3, be sufficient 2, be enough 1, suffice 1, content 1; 8

5701 Tense - Future (See 5776) Voice - Passive (See 5786) Mood - Indicative (See 5791) Count - 251

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the **love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

¹² **Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast **professed a good profession** before many witnesses.

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^{KJV} **James 2:16** And one of you say unto them, **Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?**

^{KJV} **Isaiah 48:17** Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; **I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to **profit**, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.**

^{KJV} **Jeremiah 7:8** Behold, ye **trust in lying words**, that **cannot profit**. (Jer 7:8 KJV)

Then discontentment grows and we respond with sadness or anger or despondency. How could this be possible in my life! I am saved! I know that there have been struggles and I can even see how God has taken us through difficult times. But how do I behave in those times when God's direction brings suffering even when I am prayerful to God.

^{KJV} **Mark 8:36** For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mar 8:36 KJV)

^{KJV} **1 Corinthians 12:7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. (1Co 12:7 KJV)

^{KJV} **1 Corinthians 14:6** Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? (1Co 14:6 KJV)

^{KJV} **Hebrews 4:2** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. (Heb 4:2 KJV)

^{KJV} **James 2:14** What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

How many of us have been discontent with various parts of our life and come to a point when we need answers as problems mount. I have always had answers. It is not faithful to believe that because you are His chosen and a saint of God being saved by grace, you then walk about through life without encountering events in life that threaten to move us off course.

^{KJV} **Hebrews 13**

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content with such things as ye have**: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

⁶ *So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

⁷ *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.*

⁸ **Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**

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Contentment

Contentment will never be obtained for those things you have NOT...

Contentment is discovered in all the good and perfect things God alone has brought into your life so that you be content that He alone determined it is sufficient.

Through hard lessons I learned.

And I discovered contentment in such a promise God that can only bring contentment:

^{KJV} **Romans 8:28** And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that **love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.** (Rom 8:28 KJV)

Because God knows best! ...I am content to rely upon only God NOT me and NOT man.

^{KJV} **1 John 5**

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

I am content knowing that God listens even though I do not feel like He hears. It is still our faith that works to know that **God answers, according to His will, if I know He hears.**

Listening God's answer to prayer is not sporadic or periodical.

I am to keep listening always as I pray always continuing the process throughout life. Thus, I need to keep **listening for God's answers.** Most certainly, too, I need to recognize **my answers are not God's answers.**

What is this man that thou CREATOR regard me? I most certainly do not think Jehovah, The Self-existing LORD, needs me. Rather I have learned **He wants me to need HIM.**

God does not need me, He wants me to need Him.

My will pleases me only, His will pleases Him and brings contentment to our lives
I remain discontent when I please myself!

I seek to remain confident in God.

So, Now, I am not confident in me...

I desire to be content in all things and work to please Him who created us for His pleasure.

Contentment

^{KJV} **Matthew 6**

³ But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

⁴ That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

⁵ And when thou prayest, **thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are:** for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

⁶ But thou, **when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret;** and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee **openly.**

⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for **your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him.**

Knowing our Father knows our need before we do and provides for our need that we pray for brings contentment as we remain godly in Christ Jesus.

Let us never forget our responsibility in life...

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