Just as death and destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied. (Prov 27:20 NLT)

- We examine our daily struggle between being disgruntled and being grateful.

  For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. *(Rom 1:21)*

  And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. *(James 4:6 NLT)*

- Steps to help gratitude flow from grace.

  1. We experience astonished gratitude by fully understanding and accepting grace.
     For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. *(Eph 2:8-9)*

     ". . . Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" . . . He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. . . Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." *(Luke 17:13-19)*

     Live it out Qs:
     Am I more like the nine lepers who thought they deserved something from God . . . or, do I know I am owed absolutely nothing, therefore I am instead grateful to Him?

  2. We become more grateful as we extend grace to others.

     Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" *(Matt 18:32-33)*

     Live it out Qs:

Who do I need to forgive?
Am I willing to pay what it will cost me to forgive them?
How does this cost compare to the cost of the gift of grace I've been offered through Jesus?

3. We better balance the tug-of-war between our gratitude and our grief by regularly remembering God's character and grace.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *(1 Thes 5:16-18)*

Live it out Qs:
Think of an area of life that is a source of grief or dissatisfaction.

Regarding this area of your life, what facts, emotions, or questions have I kept out of my conversations with God?

In addition to praying about changes to my circumstances, how can I begin to also express gratitude for who God is and his various character traits that apply to my situation?