



pneuma church

relate · renew · release

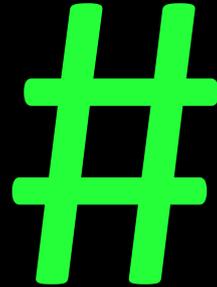
status update



What are you doing?|

#struggles

- “What in the world is a hashtag?”



- A hashtag is simply a tool to connect with what other people are saying, in a similar venue, on social media.

- I absolutely love and embrace the value of social media. There are so many incredible benefits of social media...
- At the same time, with all of the great opportunities that technology provides, there are also some unintended downsides, or unintended negative consequences, of social media and different forms of technology.
- **#StrugglesUnsatisfied** - when we compare with others, we become dissatisfied and discontented in our own hearts.

- A survey shows that in the history of the world, discontentment has never been a bigger problem than it is today.
- Never before have so many people had so much, and yet, want so much more.
- Sociologists are actually saying that social media is one of the biggest driving causes of discontentment.

- When we look at other people's lives on social media, they look perfect, because they are putting their best image, their filtered image, forward.
- We are comparing our behind-the-scenes with other people's highlight reels.
- We feel like losers, because we see the best of their best, and we know the worst of our worst.

- Never before, in the history of the world, could we so accurately measure popularity.
- We compare and summarize, “*Everybody else’s life is so much better. And my life simply sucks.*”
The more we compare with others, the less satisfied we are.
- They did a survey with two different college groups. They had to spend 30 minutes on Facebook. One third of the students felt significantly depressed, citing envy as the number one emotion they felt, after 30 minutes.

- **Gen 3:1** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”
- **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- The first things are that we need to notice that the devil approached Eve in the form of a snake, the most subtle animal.

- Have you ever wondered why he didn't use an animal like a lion, that could scare you into eating the apple?
- The devil can't force me to do anything. His only power is deception.
- He came with deception against Eve.
- How do you tempt and deceive someone who lives in paradise? How do you tempt perfect people?

- Think about this: in our day it is easy to tempt people: sexually, power, money -- but you couldn't tempt Adam and Eve with these things.
- Material and financial discontentment.
- Relational discontentment.
- Circumstantial discontentment.

- Life is 10 percent of what happens to you, and 90 percent how you respond.
- The reality is, for most of us, it is the flip side of that. Most of us live as if life is 90 percent of what happens to us, and we really don't have much power in our response.

- They were in God' s perfect will for their lives: tending the garden, being in fellowship with Him for their enjoyment and His enjoyment, loving life without the pain and the suffering.
- How do you tempt a person who is perfect and has everything?

- This is major because what is amazing is that Satan can even tempt a person who has everything, even someone who had fellowship with God on a daily basis in the cool of the evening.
- He said unto them, **here is the real temptation.** It is not the fruit.
- He tempted people who had everything and convinced them that they didn't have enough. **He convinced them that they needed more.**

- Most people think that their happiness, their contentment, their satisfaction level is based on the things they have or don't have. Happiness in things only lasts for a few moments and then it is gone.
- People say, "If I only had *that* house or *that* car I would be happy and satisfied. If I just married a different person I would be very happy." Or, "I want to change my husband for a new one because I have sucked all the life out of this one." Or, "If my parents were as cool as his parents..." Or, "If I just had a different job."

- Satan made Adam and Eve discontent with what they had.
- He said you don't have everything and you can't be satisfied until you do.
- If Satan convinced them, don't you think he could convince us today, who live in an imperfect world?

Did you know that unless you become discontent,
you cannot enter into sin?

All sin is founded in discontentment.

- Satan loves to gravitate towards negative thoughts. Adam and Eve were living in perfection; there was nothing wrong with Adam or Eve. Yet Satan got them to believe they needed more. You think he can't convince you that you need more instead of giving more, like the word says?
- If he made their blessing obvious to them, if he made their provision and perfection that they were living in obvious , do you think they would have sinned?
- You mean we can only eat from 999 trees???

- So now in your relationships, do you think he is going to attack you with thoughts of how wonderful your spouse is and tell you about the 999 great attributes of him or her? NO! He will focus on the negative and he will convince you that you are not and cannot be satisfied with what you have.
- The truth is, the devil loves to get our attention away from the positive and focus on the negative. And as people, we have become masters at gravitating towards the negative.

- **Proverbs 27: 20** says hell and destruction are never full, so the eyes of man are never satisfied.
- Did you know that in the Hebrew language, the same word used for “satisfied” is the word “full.”
- It is like a drug addiction; it always leads to you needing more. The next time you want to go on a trip, you will never be full with what you have.

- Real satisfaction does not come that way, but because we have become masters of the negative, we tend to think that we can satisfy these needs we have with things. Know that it will never be filled.
- **John 14** ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ If you really know Me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.”
- ⁸ Philip said, “**Lord, show us the Father and that will be sufficient for us.**”

- The word sufficient means that **I will be satisfied if you show us the Father.**
- They wanted more; the devil convinced them not to be satisfied.
- The Apostle Paul was the master of responding with a Christ-like perspective.

- **Philippians 4** ² 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. ¹³ I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.
- “If life is going the way I want it to, or if life is not going the way I want it to at all, I know the secret of being content” – “whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” He says, “I can do all this through [Christ] who gives me strength.”

- The secret of contentment is not found in what I have or do not have. The secret of contentment is found in Christ, and Christ alone.
- Until you experience the goodness of Christ, you will always be dissatisfied. You will always be longing for something more, because within you is a Christ-shaped void.
- I want to talk about two things that we absolutely and completely need Christ's strength to do -- two things that will help us to overcome this sin of envy.

- Through Christ's strength, number one, we will kill comparisons. Through the strength of Christ, we will stop comparing.
- **2 Corinthians 10:12.** He said, "We do not dare" – "We're not even going to get close to this" – "to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."
- Andy Stanley says, "There is no win in comparisons."

- We're going to kill comparisons. Why?
- James 3:14-16 "If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth."
- He says "such 'wisdom'" in quotes – "Such 'wisdom'" does not come down from heaven but it is "earthly." It is what? It is "unspiritual." What is it? It is "demonic."
- Envy is demonic. It is unspiritual. It is not from heaven.

- **16** “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”
- How?
- There are two key things that we need to focus on and practice each and every day. It needs to be in our conversation, in our thinking, in our doing, in our prayers and in our relationships.

- Thankfulness and understanding that by FAITH we have received all these things in Christ Jesus.
- Start focusing your attention on the positive things that are in your life, on the blessings that are already visible in your life, and the rest of your problems and concerns will fall into line.
- Some of you may need to take a social media break, because this is feeding the sin of envy.
- You know why, because you can never be satisfied by the illumination of problems.

- *Envy* is resenting God's goodness in other people's lives, and ignoring God's goodness in your own life.
- **Proverbs 15:15** "For the despondent, every day brings trouble."
- "[And] for the despondent, every [single] day brings trouble; [but] for the happy heart, life is a continual feast."
- **Ecclesiastes 6:9** "Enjoy" – "Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have."

- So the question: How do I become fully satisfied?
- Start believing what the Word tells you about yourself and your Father.
- Also know that even in our thoughts, the devil is busy trying to convince us that what Christ has done is not enough; that you can't be satisfied with that.

- Let's start praising God for the wonders that are already in our lives -- for the blessings, for our spouses, for our children, for health -- even when we don't feel like it.