

*THE **ABC**'s
of
Becoming
A Better Christian*

CONTENTMENT



Key Passages

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

5 *Keep your life free from love of money, and **BE CONTENT** with what you have, for HE HAS SAID, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (ESV)

1. 6 Now there is *great gain in godliness **WITH CONTENTMENT**,*
7 *for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.*
8 *But if we have food and clothing, with these we will **BE CONTENT**.*

Philippians 4:11-12 (NIV)

11 *I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned to BE CONTENT** whatever the circumstances.*
12 *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.*

Introduction

Contentment Is Defined as “the state of being *mentally* or *emotionally* **SATISFIED IN YOUR SOUL**”

Contentment Is **BEING FREE** From Worry and Anxiety

The Challenge

We *See Physical Things* that Affect us *Mentally and Emotionally*

Matthew 6:22 ~ The Eye is the lamp to the body....

I Want It... I Have To Have It

The Impact

You now *yearn and long* for those things that **YOU DO NOT HAVE.....**

James 4:1-2 (ESV)

1 What causes *quarrels* and what causes *fights* among you? Is it not this, that your passions are *at war within you*?

2 *You desire and do not have*, so you murder. You *covet and cannot obtain*, so you fight and quarrel.

You do not have, because you do not ask.

The Solution

LEARN THE SECRET OF BEING CONTENT

Contentment is *learned*, and we gain it *through experience* ~

As we walk through various circumstances in life, **WE LEARN CONTENTMENT.**

Keys To Contentment

#1 Trust In God

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and **BE CONTENT** with what you have,
FOR HE HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

CONTENTMENT is *a settled spirit, quiet confidence* **THAT GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK FOR GOOD.**

"Contentment is **AN ATTITUDE** that says, I will be **SATISFIED** with what God has given **ME.**"

BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

This means that believers should put their trust and confidence in God,
knowing that everything you have been given comes from HIM

James 1:17 (NKJV)

17 **Every** good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights...

What You Have Comes From God ~ What You Need He Will Supply
If I Don't Have It... I Don't Need It ~ When I Need It, He Will Supply It

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Keys To Contentment

#1 Trust In God

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5 Keep your life free from love of money, and BE CONTENT with what you have,
FOR HE HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

Value His Presence.... Not Just His Presents

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV)

11 You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy;**
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Worry Comes When You Don't Have What You WANT!!!

WORRY MEANS WE DO NOT TRUST GOD

The key to overcoming our discontentment and lack of faith is to find out **WHO GOD REALLY IS**
and **HOW HE HAS BEEN FAITHFUL** to supply the needs of His people **in the past.**

Romans 14:17 (NKJV)

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.



Keys To Contentment

#2 Monitor Your Heart

Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Both **GREED** and **CONTENTMENT** are matters of the heart.*

Biblical Example

2 Samuel 11:2-4 (NLT)

2 Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.

3 He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her.....

Watching, Wanting, Warning, Still Wanting

2 Samuel 12:8 (NLT)

*8 **I gave you** your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.*

And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more.

Psalms 51:10 (NLT)

*10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God.** Renew a loyal spirit within me.*

Psalms 37:4 (NIV)

*4 Delight yourself in the Lord and **he will give you the desires of your heart.***

Keys To Contentment

#2 Monitor Your Heart

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

*Get To **The Heart** Of The Matter*

Psalms 26:2 (NIV)

2 Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NIV)

9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

*10 "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, **to reward a man according to his conduct,**
according to what his deeds deserve."*



Keys To Contentment

#3 Seek Things That Satisfy

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

33 But seek **FIRST** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Solomon, the wisest and richest man who ever lived, said in *Ecclesiastes 5:10*
Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.

Christians should *focus their effort* on *pursuing holiness* in conduct, **attitude**, and thought.

Proverbs 16:8 (NLT)

8 Better to have **little, with godliness**, than to be rich and dishonest.

Psalms 37:16 (NLT)

16 It is better to be **godly and have little** than to be evil and rich.

Proverbs 28:6 (NLT)

6 Better to be **poor and honest** than to be dishonest and rich.

Proverbs 15:16 (NLT)

16 Better to have little, with fear for the Lord, than to have great treasure and inner turmoil.

Proverbs 19:23 (NIV)

23 The fear of the Lord leads to life: **Then one rests content**, untouched by trouble.

Keys To Contentment

#4 Live and Learn

Philippians 4:11-12, 13 (NIV)

*11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned** to BE CONTENT whatever the circumstances.*

*12 **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 things through Christ who strengthens me.*

***I HAVE LEARNED** ~ This Comes Through Experiences ~
God Arranges and Allows Circumstances to Teach Contentment*

***I KNOW WHAT IT IS** ~ The Experiences Have Given You The Power To Adapt To Every Situation
Knowledge Gives You The Power To Persevere Through Things You Can't Change*

***I Can Do** ~ This Is The Confidence Of Contentment
Regardless of the Situation God Will Supply and God Will Strengthen*



Keys To Contentment

#5 Know What Is True Gain

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (ESV)

6 Now *there is great gain in godliness with contentment,*
7 *for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.*
8 *But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*

*It is impossible to be content when our hearts are set on **GAINING MORE.***

Paul's Perspective ~ Philippians 3:5-9 (NLT)

5 *I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. 7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.*
8 *Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, **SO THAT I COULD GAIN CHRIST***

Jesus' Perspective ~ Mark 8:36 (NLT)

36 *And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?*



Keys To Contentment

#6 Power Of Prayer

Proverbs 30:7-9 (ESV)

7 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:

*8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; GIVE ME NEITHER POVERTY NOR RICHES;
feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?"
or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.*

Prayer Summarized

*God, You Give Me What I Need
I know you can balance it out!!!*

*God Will Supply Our Daily Bread ~ God Will Give Seed To The Sower
You Make Your Way Prosperous With Your Decisions*

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

*8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night,
so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.*

FOR THEN YOU WILL MAKE YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS, and THEN YOU WILL HAVE GOOD SUCCESS.



In Conclusion

Keys To Contentment

#1 Trust In God

#2 Monitor Your Heart

#3 Seek Things That Satisfy

#4 Live and Learn

#5 Know What Is True Gain

#6 Power Of Prayer

