

**Satisfied Series**  
**Lie #5 – More Stuff Will Bring Me Satisfaction**  
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Today is part five of a series we are doing called SATISFIED. In this series we are looking at some of the lies our culture is feeding us about how to live a satisfied, happy, and fulfilled life.

God does want us to be happy, fulfilled and living a satisfied life but the propaganda of the world about these things produces the opposite. The result is we keep running, searching and trying new things hoping to find satisfaction.

So far in this series we looked at four common lies of our culture.

- **Lie #1 – Being in control will bring me satisfaction.** The idea is, if I can be self-sufficient and in control then I will be happy. The goal is being able to do things my way. It creates the false idea that I don't really need people or God. I become the master of my own destiny.

**God's way is giving him control of my life and doing things his way. Resulting in a well ordered life that satisfies.**

- **Lie #2 – Pleasure will bring me satisfaction** - This lie of our culture is that the more pleasure I engage in the more satisfied and fulfilled I will be as a person. But pleasure is fleeting and does not satisfy.

**God's way is pursuing him and his kingdom instead of pleasure. Resulting in a deeply satisfying and fulfilled life.**

- **Lie #3 – Success will bring me satisfaction** – This lie tells me if I become successful then I be important and significant. This causes me to be driven in life.

**God's way is to let him meet my inner need for affirmation and significance. Resulting in a healthy life of success and closeness with God.**

- **Lie #4 – People will bring me satisfaction** – When I find Mr. or Mrs. right then I will be happy. The lie causes me to look to people instead of God for my identity, security, and value.

**God's way is finding my value and worth in him. Resulting in healthy relationships.**

TODAY **Lie #5 – More stuff will bring me satisfaction** – If I can accumulate more things, better things, bigger things then I will be happy. Just a little more. A newer model, the latest edition, latest technology.

This pursuit of more and more things for satisfaction is not always a conscience thing. We are not always aware of why we are doing what we are doing.

But if that inner need for satisfaction and fulfilment is not met we will keep trying to fill that hole with more and more things. It's just the way we are.

And it's not always big expensive things. Sometimes it's small cheap things or even junk. And our lives soon become cluttered with possessions.

How do we counteract this impulse to find happiness in stuff?

First of all, understand the remedy for satisfaction is not in things. Things will never bring lasting happiness into your life. The newest model will be outdated in 6 months then you are back to that empty feeling again.

**1. God's way is learning contentment with what we have. Resulting in a free spirit to bless others.**

The Apostle Paul said he learned a secret to living a satisfied life. It was learning how to be content with what he had. Not wishing for something different or more.

**Read Philippians 4:12** *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.*

## **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10**

*<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

It's not money and stuff that is wrong. It is the love of these things. When we begin to think these things will give us satisfaction in life and they become our pursuit.

The lie of "more stuff" tends to make us selfish. If we think we need more stuff it becomes hard for us to really care about the needs of others and give things away.

**The secret to contentment is being grateful for what you have and being generous with what you have!**

When we are content it frees our spirit to be generous with what we have. Because we are not always striving for more things. It becomes easier to give away our abundance instead of building bigger barns to store our stuff.

I don't know about you, but we have lived in the same house for about 30 years and it is amazing how things accumulate. I am a saver and my wife is a discarder. I build more shelves and she empties shelves. She fills bags of stuff to give away and I go through the bags to rescue things.

I think the re-uzit shop in town probably has a special section dedicated to Erma's donations.

Erma is definitely a free spirit in her giving. She is not attached to things like I am.

Here is something we probably should all do to help ourselves.

- 2. Begin giving stuff away. It will help you develop contentment and free your spirit.**

Afterall, Jesus said we are more blessed when we give than when we receive.

So, here is an idea for this week. Begin to go through your closet. Your pile of shoes. Your shelves in the basement or garage and give some things away.

Instead of asking, “Do I like this piece of clothing?” — it’s more helpful to ask, “When’s the last time I wore this piece of clothing?” If it’s been awhile, get rid of it.

Also, it’s ok to get rid of things that were gifted to you. Go for it. I give you permission. Someone out there needs it and is praying for it. Be the answer to their prayer for brown shoes.

Some people use the “one in” and “one out” rule. If you buy a new piece of clothing, you donate a piece of clothing.

Getting rid of stuff is hard for us savers. Someday we might need it. And when that day comes we feel so good. “Look honey I saved this piece of wood for 25 years and now I can use it. Jesus and the angels are rejoicing at the foresight I had.”

But you know what. **The things you own, can end up owning you if you are not careful.**

Material things do not make you happy and satisfied. If you believe that, you will always be driven for more. Only Jesus can satisfy our hearts.

### **3. Make God your “One Thing” and your most treasured possession and the lies of the culture will have no hold on you.**

Jesus said, “*Where your treasure is there will your heart be also*”. If your treasure is in stuff your heart will be captured by the things of this world. (Matt 6:21)

If God is your “One Thing Treasure” then he will capture and protect your heart.

## Psalm 27:4 (TPT)

**Here's the one thing I crave from God, the one thing I seek above all else:  
I want the privilege of living with him every moment in his house, finding the sweet loveliness of his face, filled with awe, delighting in his glory and grace.  
I want to live my life so close to him that he takes pleasure in my every prayer.**

Is God your "One Thing" this morning? Is enjoying his presence throughout the day your pursuit and delight?

Can you say like the Psalmist, the "One Thing" I seek above all else is experiencing his presence in my life?

### **Conclusion:**

Last Sunday Pastor Mark Jayakumar brought us a loving corrective word from the Lord and the word was a call to return to our first love and to let him reignite the fire in our hearts. In our families, and in our church.

As I was meditating on this prophetic word to us I was reminded of what God said to the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2. He tells them he is happy for their hard work, passion for godliness and all the good things they were doing as Christians, but he was troubled that they had left the fire burn low in their lives.

That first love and passion for God they once had was no longer there. It was replaced with busyness, church stuff, good deeds but not a pursuit of his presence like they once had. They were a good church but had lost much of their passion.

He calls them to repent. To turn toward him once again. To make him their pursuit. Then he tells them how. He says, - Begin to do the things you did in the beginning. When you first became a Christian. When our church first started.

Remember what it was like then? What were things you did and enjoyed back then?

- I spent a lot of time reading the bible.
- Enjoyed doing bible study with others in their homes.
- I looked forward to and was excited about church each Sunday.
- I enjoyed getting together with people to pray.
- I enjoyed the sense of community and caring for each other.
- I was bold in telling others about what Jesus did for me.

- I prayed in tongues on a regular basis in my prayer time which kept my spirit stirred up.

I believe God is saying if we will begin doing those things we did at first, the fire will reignite in our lives and church in a fresh way.

Elder prayer times – Late night prayers – Readjusting our busy schedules for God’s priorities. Going after the fire again. Making him our “One Thing”.

### **Closing Recommittal Prayer:**

Lord we love you and have been zealous for you. We have stood against evil and tried hard to be faithful. We have worked hard in our serving of others. But the fire of your presence and sweet communion with you has waned and grown weak in many ways in our lives, our families, and church.

We hear you calling us back to that place of presence and communion with you. We hear you calling us to return to our first love where you are the One Thing above all other things in our lives.

We hear you calling us to stir the fire by doing what we did when we first encountered you.

We were excited about spiritual things, excited about what we were learning, excited to go to church and worship. We had a deep hunger for your word. It became our daily bread. The things of the Spirit were an adventure and living water that refreshed us.

Lord we have allowed stuff and busyness and the cares of this world to distract us from you as our One Thing. We repent, and we are asking you to help us to return to you as our first love.

Stir the fire of your presence to burn brightly in our hearts, our families and our church once again. Give us a new awareness of what is really important and help us make those adjustments in our lives and families. Reorder our priorities around the things that really matter and the things that you are calling us into.

Lord help us discover that place of sweet communion with you in a new way once again. May the fire of your Spirit and your love burn brightly in our hearts. This is the cry of our hearts. Help us to live in this once again.