

ACCESS: Content

Sermon: Access: Content
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Is it possible to get to the point in your spiritual life where external things do not control you internally?

*I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13 NIV*

The word “content” actually means “contained.” It is a description of the person whose resources are within them

Contentment comes from being satisfied with God’s “inner contents”

Contentment is not complacency
Contentment is not disconnecting

We must Protect Contentment or ‘Guard the well’ from:

1. **Comparison:** We envy and idolize what the world or others have
2. **Entitlement:** We feel owed and obligate others to cater to our egos

3. **Production:** We crave significance through performance and results
4. **Control:** We feel the impulse to manipulate everything into our peace
5. **False self:** We agree to shameful lies that exile us from water wells

We must Practice Contentment by ‘Drinking from the well’

1. **Redefining Scoreboards:** We live for something bigger than ourselves

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. Philippians 1:12 NIV

2. **Resting Patience:** We listen, wait and drink with expectancy

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. Philippians 3:7,8 NIV

The contented person is quicker to say, “Not my will, but yours be done.”

Questions

1. How have you defined contentment? What does it mean to be content in circumstances, but not content with circumstances?
2. Read John 4:1-42 How is the living water that Jesus talks about different than physical water? What does it mean for your life to receive the living water Jesus mentions? As the Samaritan woman had to visit the well on a regular basis for sustenance, we need to visit the well of the Spirit for sustenance - what does that look like for you in this quarantine season?
3. What lies are you believing? Here is a list of several examples:

I am guilty

I am unlovable

I am lazy

I am undeserving

I am alone

I am rejected

4. How does the idea that Jesus wants to rip up every false agreement you have made make you feel? Can you give Him those lies to replace with his truth in your life?

My debt is paid- Colossians 2:13,14

I am loved- John 3:16

I am to rest in Jesus in this season- Luke 10:38-42

I am never alone- Matthew 28:20

I am Chosen- 1 Peter 2:9

Revival will come through contentment:

PRAY: Lord, help me to guard the wellspring of Your life in me. Show me the things that I have for which to be grateful. Show me the ways that I have identified with that do not line up with Your heart. Show me the lies with which I've made agreements. Replace every lie with your truth! Come Lord Jesus with Your cool, refreshing, life-giving water to wash over me, to cleanse me, to restore me. Thank you Jesus that you love me so much that you desire to restore my life every day, every hour, every moment! Revive my heart and my first love of You! Amen