

CONTENTMENT

Each of us both in our moment-to-moment existence and in an overall sense experiences our life along this spectrum. Hopefully we live on the positive side and only make brief forays into the negative side. BTW, Most people are not as happy or all-together as they appear in public. One of the great benefits of spiritual maturity is the capacity to be content with God's will for us in spite of what He has decided about our circumstances.

1. Definition & description: arkeo – enough, sufficient, satisfied, content.

Mt 25:9	Not enough food or money to buy enough food
1Tim 6:8	Food & clothing is enough – satisfied, content
2Cor 12:9	My grace is sufficient – enough
Heb 13:5	Flee love/money – be content with what you have
Autarkes	Self sufficient – sufficient w/in one's self w/out help from circumstances
Phil 4:11-13	Sufficient inner resources because of the strength of Christ in me

Contentment is the mind-set that whatever one's present circumstances, what you have is sufficient and enough. "To be free from care because of satisfaction with what is already one's own". **ISBE**

"A state of mind in which one's desires are confined to his lot whatever it may be. 1Tim 6:6 2Cor 9:8 It is opposed to envy. Jas 3:16 avarice, Heb 13:5 ambition, Pr 13:10 anxiety, Mt 6:25,34 and repining, 1Cor 10:10 It arises from the inward disposition and is the offspring of humility and of an intelligent consideration of the rectitude and benignity of divine providence. Ps 96:1,2 145:1, the greatness of the divine promises 2Pet 1:4 and our own unworthiness Gen 32:10 as well as from the view the gospel opens up to us of rest and peace hereafter. Rom 5:2" **Easton's**

Do you have enough: money, pleasure, freedom, intimacy in relationships, sex, success, recognition, praise, pity, agreement, etc.?

2. Contentment – discontent is related to the management of desire.

Desire is the core motivator of the soul

- **Old Man** 2Pt 1:4; Eph 4:22, Mk 9:35, Lk 20:46; Rom 1:27, 7:7, 1Cor 10:6, 2Cor 11:12, Gal 4:9, 20 5:16-17, 6:12-13, Col 5:16-17, 1Thes 4:5, Jam 1:14-15, 2Pt 2:10, 1Jn 2:16-17
- **New Man** Lk 22:15, Rom 10:1, 1Cor 14:1, 2Cor 7:7,11, Eph 3:13, Phil 1:23, 4:17, 1Thes 2:17, 1Tim 3:1, Heb 6:11, 11:16, 1Pt 2:2

Desires of the flesh compete with the **Desires of The Spirit**. Gal 5:16-17

- Desire is directed and attached to objects through our belief system.
- Desire attached to God and His will produces contentment
- Desire attached to self and worldly objects produces discontentment

3. Operating with OM beliefs renders us incapable of being content

Greed [pleonexia] The desire to have more irrespective of need; covetous, grasping, reaching for more

Lk 12:15	Connected to the abundance of possessions
Eph 4:19	Unrestrained lust leading to addictions – continual lust for more
2Pt 2:14	Never ceasing from sin – akatapastos – never satisfied
Mk 14:10-11	Judas betrayed Jesus for money
Jn 12:6	Judas would steal from the money given for the ministry

Greed is restless, it cannot be satisfied, always wanting more, more excited about anticipating something than having it, not appreciating present blessing, not recognizing the blessings in your life, complaining because you don't have more or different.

4. New man beliefs attach desire to God's will and enable contentment

- Old Man beliefs attach desire to worldliness and inspire greed – detach desire
- New Man beliefs re-attach desire to God's Person and God's will – His good pleasure
- The heart free from worldly attachments is free to love/choose God's will
- The heart free from greed is free to trust and be content with God's will

5. Capacity for contentment is a mystery available only to Disciples of Christ.

Phil 4:11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

Learned – **manthano** A/A/Ind – to learn as a disciple – verb form of **mathetes** – disciple

- Contentment is not learned in bible study – classroom of CWL
- Contentment is learned as we walk with Jesus and He teaches us about life
- Contentment is learned as God strips us of our idols in life

Phil 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full & to be hungry, both to abound & to suffer need.

Instructed – **mueo** – P/F/PI – to be initiated into a mystery religion

- Contentment is part of the mystery doctrines revealed only to the church age
- Mystery doctrine is related to Christ being in us and our bodies as temples of GHS
- Contentment is a mystery because it is only achieved through ministry of GHS in us
- Contentment is achieved as GHS frees us from OM beliefs through transformation