

The Secret of Kingdom Contentment

“Contentment is a pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires makes a wise and a happy purchase.”

John Balquy

An ancient Chinese philosopher once said, *“Health is the greatest possession. Contentment is the greatest treasure. Confidence is the greater friend, faithfulness is the best relationship.”* An old proverb is true in reference to contentment: *“It is better to want what you have, than to have what you want.”* Why is this an important counsel? C.F. Ramuz said it rightly, *“Man never has what he wants, because what he wants is everything.”* Hence, always remember this wise saying, *“Content makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich man poor.”* (Benjamin Franklin)

It is not our circumstances that create our discontent or contentment. It is us. The root problem is within ourselves. When man has found peace with God (Pr 16:7), his exterior environment will blend well with his interior condition. At the same time, contentment is a choice that requires the effort of faith: *“whoso trusted in the Lord, happy is he.”* (Pr 16:20)

Apostle Paul gave a fine piece of counsel as a practical help for spiritual bliss. He expressed the solution in the expression of gratitude by means of contentment. Contentment is a three-fold issue in the epistle of Philippians:

i. A content person trusts in the providence of God.

Paul’s quotation of Roman 8:28 echoes Genesis 50:20, *“All things work together for good to those who love God.”* God is constantly at work arranging circumstances and situation for the completion and fulfillment of His purpose according to His great love for us. Like Paul, trusting in the providence of God is essential to knowing contentment (4:11)

ii. A content person trusts in the power of God.

Through testing and trials, Paul discovered the reality of contentment lies in the attitude of faith in total dependence and trust in the power of Christ. (Phil 4:13). It is the very power of Christ within a believer’s life that gives him contentment. Kingdom contentment comes to those who are daily strengthened by the divine power of the Holy Spirit.

iii. A content person trusts in the promises of God.

Paul knew the source of his provision, prosperity and contentment. *“My God shall supply all my needs according”*(4:19). He knew that every sower can expect good harvest from the Lord (4:15). For godly giving is an odor of

sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God (4:18). A content person knows this great truth, and rests in this great reality. (Gal 6:7)

When you can think of yesterday without regret and tomorrow without fear, you are near contentment. Christ is the foundation of contentment (Col 1:27). Learn to surrender your future into His mighty hands and God will certainly guide you into your blessed Canaan for He promised: *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure...Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begin a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”* (Phil 2:13; 1:6)