

The Stranger Called Contentment

The greatest lack in this modernistic 21st century is not material substance but a happy heart of contentment. If you are content, you have enough to live comfortably with oneself for the rest of your life. Contentment is the greatest treasure of godliness (1 Tim 6:6). In other word, contentment is the outer garment of a godly life. While we pursue things, we flee from contentment. Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have (1 Cor 3:21,22; Col 2:3).

The golden key to enduring bliss: simplicity is contentment! Learning to find contentment is the little pleasures of life. Do you ever experienced bliss just in finding a little time for leisure; a happy home; a cup of good coffee; sipping pleasant soup, etc. The art of happiness lies in the ability to extract happiness from common things. Everyone chases after happiness, not realizing that happiness is right at their heels. *“The perceptive find wisdom in their own front yard; fools look for it everywhere but right here.”* (Prov 17:24, Message) Arnold saying is true: “If you run after two hares, you will catch neither.”

Gratitude is the spring of a contented heart. It is better to want what you have than to have what you want. Limiting the desires within the boundary of your own possession: finding something good in your own spouse; finding pleasantness in your own workplace. This is a notable saying of the prudent life: The green is never greener on the other side of the fence. Every divorcee finds out this truth later. Enjoy your own well (Prov 5:15). The Spanish proverb says “Since we cannot get what we like, let us like what we can get”. Temperance is a tree that yields the fruit of contentment and peace. Be ever grateful with what you already have. This is a true observation about greed: man never has what he wants because ALL he wants is everything! Always look at what you have left. Never look at what you have lost. Be content with your lot! (Ps 16:5,6)

Contentment is the inner satisfaction for the sovereign dispensation of divine providence. The hallmark of such reality is thankfulness. On the contrary, murmuring and complaining is the fruit of a wrong heart, looking at life’s affairs with an evil eye of pickiness (fussiness).

Murmurers are losers bitten by the snake of misfortune (1 Cor 10:9,10). They complained against the divine potter lamenting: “why have you made me this way?” Bitterness, restlessness and materialistic inclination are the defilement and toxins of a poisonous heart (disequilibrium). Indeed, the prevalent evil of this age is discontentment – a massive brood of unhappy crowd (very difficult to please!).

True humility is the mother of joy (Phi 2:3,8). Joy is the offspring of contentment. A cheerful look makes a dish a feast. Joy is independent of circumstantial happenings. Joy is the outflow of sweet intimacy. For contentment was found in the prison cell! (Phi 1:13,14; 4:11-12) It is illogical to the intellectual minds. Spiritual contentment is from within, deep in the heart. It is sought from God. Be free from the love of money and be ever mindful and addictive to His presence is the sure pathway to contentment. A mind filled with divine peace creates a heart filled with godly contentment (Phi 4:8,9). Indeed, contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor. The root of true bliss is found in intimacy (Ps 73:25-28; Col 1:27). Contentment is a pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires make a wise and a happy purchase. What I am looking for is not out there, it is in me (Ps 87:7).