

The Other Part Of The Prosperity Message

CONTENTMENT!

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Contentment is not antithetical to the Bible's prosperity promises, rather contentment is part of that same scriptural message, and also a balancing truth that brings it all into divine perspective.

Hebrews 13:5 KJV - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

The definition of prosperity is not “having a lot of stuff.” That may be the world’s definition but it is NOT the Bible definition of prosperity!

The Bible definition of prosperity is “having enough of God’s provision to complete your divine assignment on earth!”

Mike Murdock: “If you have more stuff that you can manage, organize and prioritize, you may have more than God really intended.”

1 Timothy 6:6-10 KJV - But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

By the way: Tithers and givers don't have to worry about falling into the trap of love for money. Big givers have already proven to themselves and to God that they have conquered greed and that money is NOT their master! God doesn't mind you having money as long as money doesn't have you! Tithing and giving is God's built in protection system against greed!

My Own Testimony: Some financial injustices that happened to us as a senior pastor because of a church split three years ago in Tullahoma, TN have impacted us greatly to this day. Recently I have had to restructure my finances and trim the fat! I got rid of a modest used travel trailer. I got rid of my two cars. We have become a one car family again as we were in the beginning. We have cut back on such things as cable TV, cell phones, clothing purchases, and have had to streamline and structure our payment of bills and no longer use credit cards whatsoever. Do I feel cheated? Am I unhappy? NO, A RESOUNDING NO! I am a bigger tither and giver than I have ever been. I am happier and more content than ever, and I FEEL EXTREMELY BLESSED. I am tied to the house of God and the plan of God more than ever! I am SOOOOOOOO RICH!

WHAT IS CONTENTMENT?

1. Contentment is the phenomenon of “FEELING blessed!”
2. Contentment is "FREEDOM FROM ALWAYS WANTING MORE AND MORE

1 John 2:15-17 MSG - Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world - wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important - has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out - but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

3. Contentment is the next of kin to PEACE a close cousin to HAPPINESS.

HOW DOES CONTENTMENT COME?

1. By memorizing and meditating some “Contentment” scriptures. (Inside the words of every command of God is the grace to obey them. Inside every promise of God is the power to bring itself to pass.)
2. By celebrating the simple things, the free things, and the little blessings in life.
3. By giving thanks aloud to God for everything you already have. (aka counting your blessings, not your liabilities.) Contentment comes by being thankful for what God has already given you. After all, you have already received, and received, and received from God!
4. By realizing that, in reality, you already possess everything in creation! It's all yours... already!

*1 Corinthian 3:21-22 KJV - Therefore let no man glory in men. For **all things are yours**; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; **all are yours**.*

How I Practice This Truth: Thank you, Lord, that beautiful Lexus I see right now – it’s mine! Look at that green pasture, Lord, and it’s mine! Look at that mountain, Monte Sano, Lord! Wow! You have given me that mountain as my very own to enjoy! Look at those cool rims on that car, Lord; they are mine! O Lord, thank you for this beautiful sunset you’ve given me. Whoa, Jesus, look at this beautiful woman you’ve given me as my very own wife!

5. By realizing that you are ALREADY RICH! I AM A RICH MAN! I am rich with salvation! I am rich with the indwelling person of the Holy Spirit Himself! I am rich with a wife and family! I am rich with parents and grandchildren. I am rich with a pastor and fellow believers! I am rich with a local church. I am rich because I am employed or else have the potential of future employment. I am rich with inner potential. I am rich because I have a dream! I am rich, surrounded by mountains, clouds, sunshine, fresh air, trees, grass, colors, sounds, laughter, the gentle breeze, soft raindrops, lungs full of air, every heartbeat, every step, wonderful fragrances, and faithful friends!
6. By getting busy meeting the needs of others, not yourself. By getting back to the basics of winning the lost, discipling the saints, feeding the poor, sharing the Gospel and living the Gospel in front of others.