

Be Content With **2** What You Have

Points to Consider

1. Reasons to be content
2. The Key to contentment
3. A case study

Reasons to be content

1 Tim 6:6-10 *Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* NKJV

1. We should be content because we came into this world with nothing, and we will leave with _____!
2. We should be content because those who aren't suffer _____ consequences.

Matt 6:31-34 *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* NKJV

3. We should be content because God _____ us food, drink, and clothing. These are the very things with which we should be content.
4. We should be content because contentment _____ anxiety.

Heb 13:5-6 *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

5. We should be content because contentment makes us _____ not covetous.

Est 5:9-13 So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai. 10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh. 11 Then Haman told them of his **great riches, the multitude of his children**, everything in which the king had **promoted** him, and how he had **advanced him above the officials** and servants of the king. 12 Moreover Haman said, "Besides, Queen Esther **invited no one but me** to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king. 13 Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

6. We should be content because contentment _____ resentment which robs us of joy.

Eccl 2:10-11 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. 11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.... Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind. 18 Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Eccl 5:10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.

7. We should be contentment because contentment helps us _____ the vain pursuit of money and pleasure.

Eccl 5:12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.

8. We should be content because contentment makes our sleep _____.

Eccl 6:3 If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better than he.

Eccl 3:12-13 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, 13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor — it is the gift of God.

Ecc1 4:6 *Better a handful with quietness than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind.*

9. We should be content because contentment helps us _____
enjoy the small blessings of life.

Ecc1 6:9 *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

10. We should be content because contentment helps us enjoy what we
_____ instead of wanting things we don't have.

The Key to Contentment

Gratitude!

Col 3:14-16 *But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Being thankful is an important element of the _____ of God ruling in our hearts.

Luke 17:15-19 *And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

Thanking God closes the loop and allows us to live in peace.

We are to give thanks always for _____ things (Eph 5:20).

Daniel "prayed and gave thanks before his God" three times a day from his youth (Dan 6:10).

How do we become grateful people? (Practical Application)

Make a list – Pray the list – Add to the list

1. We should be thankful for God's _____ (Ps 136:1-3).
2. We should be thankful that we have victory over death (1Cor 15:56-57).
3. We should be thankful when _____ demonstrate faith and love (2 Thes 1:3-5; Romans 1:8).
4. We should be thankful for our food.
5. _____

6. _____
7. _____

Surround yourself with thankful people.
Stop complaining.
Focus on the good in all situations.

A Case Study – Esau

Gen 27:41 *So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."* NKJV

After Jacob stole the promise from him, Esau hated Jacob and intended to kill him. Jacob went to his uncle's house and worked for him 20 years.

Gen 32:13-15 *So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother: 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.* NKJV

Jacob sent Esau a **substantial** present.

Gen 33:4-9 *But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down. 7 And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down. 8 Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."* NKJV

Esau still didn't have the birthright. He still didn't have the promise Isaac wanted him to have.

What he did have was contentment. He told Jacob, "I have _____, my brother."

More practical application

Figure out what "enough" is and give away everything over that.