

Completely Content

July 19, 2015 Sun AM

James 4:1-6

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

To find your life, your identity, your fulfilment, your pleasure, your joy, or your security in anything of this earth life or world system, makes you the enemy of God.

Our life and eternity depends on how well we are able to guard our heart against this heinous, demonic spirit, the very spirit of Lucifer, the spirit of covetousness.

Covetousness has the insidious power to:

- ***pervert (in our perception) the blessing from God into that which is despised and even hated***
- ***enslave our souls in the continual insanity of unrest, dissatisfaction and ceaseless striving and contention***
- ***always disappoints, always frustrates, always deceives, always exhausts, always steals, always destroys, always divides, always empties, always kills***

Covetousness perverts the God-given desire for:

- ***food, into the extreme of gluttony***
- ***sex, into the extreme of pornograghy***
- ***rest, into the extreme of slothfulness***
- ***accomplishment, into the extreme of ego***
- ***provision, into the extreme of greed***
- ***enjoyment, into the extreme of hedonism***

Covetousness perverts to extremes and addictions.

Only by being content and satisfied in God do our God-given desires stay constrained within healthy, balanced and manageable boundaries.

Contentment and God

Contentment is found in one place and one place only, the presence of God.

Psalm 36:7-8

7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

In an address given to ministers and workers after his ninetieth birthday, GEORGE MUELLER spoke thus of himself:

"I was converted in November, 1825, but I only came into the full surrender of the heart four years later, in July, 1829. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. God, God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else. And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and it led me to care only about the things of God. I ask affectionately, my beloved brethren, have you fully surrendered the heart to God, or is there this thing or that thing with which you are taken up irrespective of God?"

Contentment is joy, satisfaction and fulfilment in God, making one independent of circumstances both good and bad.

Philippians 4:11-13

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be CONTENT (autarkes - independent of external circumstances, contented with one's lot and means, sufficient for one's self).

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Contentment creates a heart of gratitude and humility instead of complaining, coveting and questioning.

Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

1 Thessalonians 5:18

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Contentment is not complacency. Complacency is laziness and indifference to needs, faults and sins. Complacency has no place in the heart in life of a Christian.

Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Contentment and Others

Contentment abandons all comparisons with others for accountability to God, eliminating the spirit of competition.

2 Corinthians 10:12-13

12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

13 But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

Contentment is the freedom to rejoice with others with no jealousy, envy or competition.

Romans 12:15

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Contentment and Circumstances

Contentment is striving after God instead of striving against circumstances.

Psalms 63:1-10

1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee, My flesh longeth for thee In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2 To see thy power and thy glory, So as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; And my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

6 When I remember thee upon my bed, And meditate on thee in the night watches.

7 Because thou hast been my help, Therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

8 My soul followeth hard after thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me.

9 But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

10 They shall fall by the sword: They shall be a portion for foxes.

Contentment is learned by the trials of suffering loss.

Job 1:21

"And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Contentment is learning to live in peace within the circumstantial limitations of God's will for your life.

Hebrews 13:5

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content (arkeo - to ward off, raising a barrier, to avail, be enough, suffice, be sufficient) with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Contentment is present enjoyment instead of the internal strife and turmoil of dissatisfaction.

Psalm 16:2–11 (New American Standard)

2 I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good besides You."

3 As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

4 The sorrows of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

5 The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot.

6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

7 I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

8 I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Contentment and Temptation

Contentment is one of the best defenses against temptation. Temptation loses its appeal when you are satisfied in God.

Genesis 39:9

"There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"