

Live in very uncertain times. Thus most people are not content with their lives. Live lives full of dissatisfaction and fantasy. People are quite dissatisfied with life. Mick Jagger, "I can't get no satisfaction." A theme song for a generation. The grass is always greener, looking for the perfect spouse, job, friend, form of recreation, etc. - Results in a generation of complainers and whiners. Someone once asked John Rockefeller worth \$100 million "how much wealth does it take to be happy? He answered, "another million dollars." If we can get one more achievement, one more acquisition, a new home, a new car, a vacation home, a raise, etc. Many books about the secrets of life: health – secrets to longevity, secrets to the fountain of youth, exercise, supplements, ways to make money, secret to a happy marriage or to success.

Phil. 4:11-13. But Paul says he has found a secret. In Phil. 4:12 I have learned the secret of being content in every situation. It is a mystery now made known. Something most do not know – how to be content. It is not the elimination of all emotion or desire. Paul cared for the people. Being free, whole, happy. Not a rollercoaster life.

Learn to be content Phil. 4:11. This is an art and mystery. It is a **virtue** and a command. *"It is the sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits o and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition."* (Burroughs). (Ps. 62:1). Not only must the tongue hold its peace, the soul must be silent. True contentment is a quiet of the heart. Not letting one's heart sink under discouragements. Not sinking under affliction.

Discontentment – Even as Christians we find our lives quite discontent at least to the degree that God desires us to. We are a discontented people. What does it mean to experience discontent? In vogue, even popular today to just be critical, to have something to complain about. There are a lot of opposites of contentment or forms of discontentment:

- 1. Covetousness** or envy– When one's heart gets sick at the success of another. Hebrews 13:5, It is impossible to remove restlessness over possessions by adding to one's possessions. Love of money, greed. This will keep you from being content.
- 2. Pride** is the opposite. The proud is like a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke. He is turbulent and fiery. We are to humble ourselves, and not think we deserve more than we receive. All is grace.
- 3. Too much ambition** – seeking too much for **oneself**. It is getting more and becoming more discontent. This makes the self one's own tormentor.
- 4. Unthankful** - It is opposed to **murmurings** against God. It rejects gratitude and submission.
- 5. Lack of faith** - Opposed to distrust God respecting the orderings of His providence. Refusing to wait upon the Lord.

These forms of discontent can lead to: Vexing, bitter, amazing confusion, people who are weak of spirit. It is murmuring - Tumultuousness of spirit. It is an unsettled or unstable spirit. The heart is distracted from one's present duty. Lacking a trust in God in the midst of poverty, sickness, trouble, disappointments and losses. .

Discontentment is found at the root of all sin. Look at the 10 commandments: 1-4 not content with God. 4 – not content with 6 days of work, 5 – not content with your parents. 6 – not content with the actions of another, 7 – not content with spouse, 8 – not content with stuff, 9 – not content with the Truth, 10 – Not content with what you have. **Angels** - Before they fell the fallen angels had heaven. **Adam and Eve** were not content in the garden. Disease of discontent. **But we are called to be content. Paul was a satisfied man.**

Philippians 4:10 you were concerned but lacked opportunity. **11-19 Paul** knew what it meant to be content. Paul is in jail in Rome. Deprived of every comfort cast as a lonely man on the edge of a great metropolis with clanking fetters and death before him he writes this. He is spiritually stable. It means to be self-sufficient, satisfied, to have enough. Learned to be satisfied, sufficient in myself, in myself as indwelt by Christ. Not the contentment of Stoic indifference which says, "I don't care." Caring greatly yet contentedness.

Secret as initiation into a pagan cult. I have been initiated into the secrets of contentment, the secret of living a contented life. Turn to 1 Cor. 10:10 This is in regard to Ex. 16:2 when they were in the desert wilderness and grumbled against Moses and Aaron. This was really a grumbling against God Numbers 16:11,41 it is against the Lord.

They complained because they were disappointed for they had been brought out of a land of plenty into a wilderness of want and instead of being conducted immediately into the land of promise they were left to perish in the desert. They complained and proposed to return to Egypt. Ex. 14:29 they were destroyed by the destroyer, the angel of death.

Don't murmur like those whose souls despised the nourishment provided. The apostle says the Corinthians were murmuring against God and Paul for prohibiting them from partaking in idolatrous feasts, just as the Israelites did in the wilderness. The Jews supposed God employed destroying angels to punish those rebellious Israelites; They were 5 in number, one called the destroyer. Don't murmur like those who did against the Lord, Moses and Aaron.

1. Discontentment is rebellion against the will of God. Hosea 4:16 will not admit the yoke farther than it is forced upon. Though God guides and governs the world, they are the malcontents not pleased with His governments but in mutiny against it. Not please with God's ruling.
2. They are angry against their lot. Jude 1:16 calls them complainers. Angry with their lot and distributions of Providence. Angry at god's dispensations and hearts rise against it. Fretting anger, whereby men disquiet and vex themselves in vain.
3. It directly strikes against God, and accuses him. Mal. 3:13-14. Accuses God of folly as if He were not wise enough to govern the world.
4. Discontentment is a rebel against the providence of God. He created the world and vindicated His government. Discontent wages war with the Governor saying, "Why hast thou made me?" It is a grasping spirit that is never appeased with distrustful anxiety with petulant murmurings. It is a complaining spirit.

Evidence of discontent is Murmuring Anxiety, and Fear Phil. 4:6-7. Israelites kept complaining they were to die in the wilderness Num. 14:2-3 so the Lord finally got fed up and allowed their complaints to come upon them. Allowed the Destroyer to answer their complaints with the very destruction they had confessed and predicted. Complaining does not change anything.

Numbers 11:1-3 they complained. Bitterly. God was patient. Accusation is found in Psalms 78:19-22. The covenant oath had already been sworn so they could not get out of it. 4-9 complaints continue. Trying to get God to conform to their wants. They wanted meat, manna didn't satisfy. Variety of foods in Egypt. God had determined what was good to eat and they wanted to determine what was good for themselves. 10-15 Moses had no sympathy. God was angry. Moses then complained to God. God's response. Appalled at their ingratitude. "These People". You want meat- I'll give you meat until it comes out your nostrils for you have rejected God. Certainly life can be unfair, illness, loss of job, children or parents disappoint, friend who turns on us, an unfaithful spouse. We can become bitter, angry, and depressed and think we are justified by our circumstances to be discontented. Contentment begins when we trust God when life is not fair. Being certain of God when life is uncertain.

Contentment is a prerequisite of happiness. AUTARKEIA means self-sufficient. With Christ Paul could face anything. The one who walks with Christ can cope with anything. Ben Franklin, "Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor." Contentment is not a natural propensity of man. It is the new nature alone that can teach it. I know how to be abased or to abound. Not be destroyed by wealth. Let it always be sufficient for you to think that you are where God put you. It is the fittest for you.