

#### 14. Can We Always Be Content

It's easy to be content when we have everything we want, but how often does that happen? There is always someone that has it better than us. The grass is always greener on the other side.

But the Lord wants us to be content (**Scriptures 1 – Be Content**). No matter what little we think we have, or how we feel; we should always strive to be content with what the good Lord has given us. I believe that's part of the process of serving and getting close to Jesus.

We should not be envious of what other people have (**Scriptures 2 – Do Not Envy or Covet**). If we covet, we can easily become prideful and egotistical. We can get to a lifestyle of constantly trying to keep up with our neighbors. What we have or don't have can become our main focus in life. But the Lord wants to be the main focus and that's what we should strive for.

Always being content may not be possible. At one point or another, you may find yourself having a hard time with even the basic needs. It's not a sin to not be content. 1 Timothy 6:8 says, "But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." So the Bible does state there is a limit to our being content. If you don't have the basic needs, it may be impossible to be content. If you're in a season of severe pain and struggle, and you just cannot be content, that's ok. Just pray for help and don't feel bad about asking others for help either.

I didn't come to know the Lord until I hit rock bottom. Everything was going wrong and I didn't know how I would survive. Definitely did not feel content. But the Lord was still there for me. Even though I was so angry at God and told Him so every day, He was still there for me. Even though I hated my life and would pray for years to go by without me having to have to live through them, He was still there for me. Those were my worst worldly years, but my best spiritual years. I saw miracles. I heard the Lord's voice and received guidance and healings from Him. He did eventually teach me how to be content, but it took several years. I have been content ever since.

Being that that was my experience, I would say that if you're going through a horrible time and you just can't find contentment, don't be too hard on yourself. Though the Lord tells us to be content, it is ok to have a season of healing and learning. The Lord is not going to stop loving you or stop being faithful to you no matter what state of mind you are in. Let the Lord heal your life and lead you. If you surrender to Him, He will bring you to a place of contentment. It may take a little while, but you will get there.

## jenaministries – Part 2 -14 Can We Always Be Content?

### Scriptures 1 - Be Content

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Philippians 4: 10-13 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:4-8 They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

### Scriptures 2 - Do Not Envy or Covet

Proverbs 19:22-23 What a person desires is unfailing love ; better to be poor than a liar. The fear of the LORD leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Proverbs 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

James 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.