

jenaministries – Part 2 – Bible Study Worksheet

G) Giving Contentment - Worksheet

Read: Part 2 #14) Can We Always Be Content?

Part 2 #15) Why Should I Tithe?

1. Do you believe it's possible to always be content? Are you always content? If not, what would make you content? What does the Bible say about contentment?

2. How much does the Lord want you to give? Are you a giving person? What do you give for the Lord (could include other than monetary)?

3. Does it make you happy to give? Are you a cheerful giver? Could you give more?

4. Why should we tithe to our church? How much should we tithe?

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.

15. Why Should I Tithe?

Tithing is all part of giving to the Lord. It's not for a church or church staff to get rich. It's not people taking advantage of you. It is simply a gift from you to the Lord. Think of all the gifts the Lord has given you. Tithing is giving back.

Having a bad experience with a church or evangelist can turn a person against tithing. If a church or evangelist pressures you to dig deep into your pockets, in order to receive blessings from the Lord, something may be seriously wrong. I've seen evangelists say that if you give all the money you possibly can to them, then God will bless you financially (like make you rich!); but if you don't give generously, then God won't bless you at all. And people have told me that after visiting a church, someone from that church came over to their house and asked them to donate significantly towards a new building.

Churches and evangelists should be distributing their funds to organizations and missionaries to help those in need. Yes, they have their bills to pay, but they also should be giving to those in need as God sees fit. If a church or evangelist is trying to pressure you to generously give to them, I suggest you stay away and find somewhere else to worship.

One tenth was a percentage decided a long time ago around the time of Moses (**Scriptures 1 – Offer One Tenth**). It wasn't something a person made up, but it came from God. Moses actually met with God and when he would return to his people, his face would be radiant. So radiant that it scared the people. Therefore, Moses had to cover his face after meeting with God, so the people wouldn't be afraid.

So what did Jesus teach us how to live? He wants us to be compassionate and giving to those in need. Most of all, He wants us to be humble servants. To think of others as ourselves. To not be prideful like the Pharisees (See web page **Why Did They Crucify Jesus?**). Tithing is all part of being that humble, giving servant.

It should bring us joy to give to God (**Scriptures 2 – Give Cheerfully**). And you should give how much you decide for yourself to give. Today, we don't have to follow all the old Jewish laws. We can decide for ourselves how much we should give to God. It should bring us joy when we give.

When I first came to know the Lord, finances were extremely stressful. So for the first couple of years, I decided to give \$20 a month to the church. I know that's a ridiculously small amount, but that's all I could afford at that time. Through the years, the Lord blessed me and I was able to give more.

I believe the Lord wants us to pay our bills. If you're facing collection agencies and/or bankruptcy, maybe you can just give what you can, if anything. That's not to say if you have a good income but have had excessive spending habits, that you shouldn't give to the Lord. In that case, you should probably sell some stuff or downsize and get your income/debt ratio more on track, ready to give to the Lord appropriately.

So, why tithe? That's easy. Tithe to give back to God and help others in need. Just think of all the Lord has done for you. Wouldn't it make you happy to give some of it back? Have joy in that and be generous.

jenaministries – Part 2 15. Why Should I Tithe?

Scriptures 1. Offer One Tenth

Leviticus 27:30 “ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Numbers 18:26 “Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD’s offering.

Deuteronomy 14:22-29 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own. At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Exodus 34:29-31 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them.

Scriptures 2. Give Cheerfully

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:8-15 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!