

PERSPECTIVE SHIFT

A CONTENT LIFE

Pastor Brad Howard - August 24, 2025

ENEMIES OF CONTENTMENT:

1. Cares of this life.

The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. *Mark 4:18-19 NLT*

2. Comparison with others.

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. *2 Corinthians 10:12 NIV*

Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Proverbs 27:20 NKJV

THREE SECRETS TO CONTENTMENT:

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:10-13 NLT*

1. CONTENTMENT MUST BE LEARNED.

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

Philippians 4:11 NLT

Here is a saying you can trust. If anyone wants to be a leader in the church, he wants to do a good work for God and people. *1 Timothy 3:1 NIV*

2. CONTENTMENT IS NOT DEPENDENT ON CIRCUMSTANCES.

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

Philippians 4:12 NLT

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Discontentment has more to do with the "who" than the what. When our identity is based upon what we do, what we have, or how we think others perceive us, we will always crave something more to feel secure or significant.

We chase identity in performance, appearance, or approval—none of which can be sustained.

One handful with peace and quiet is better than two handfuls with hard work. Working too hard is like chasing the wind. *Ecclesiastes 4:6 NIV*

"He who is not content with what he has, would not be content with what he would like to have."
-Socrates

3. CONTENTMENT RISES AS WE RELY ON GOD.

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13 NLT

Daily Confessions of Content People:

My identity is based on what Christ has done for me.

My joy comes from Christ, not comfort.

My satisfaction comes from serving Christ.

No matter what happens, I put my trust in God's plan for my life.

"Thou has made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee."
-St. Augustine