

LEARNING TO BE CONTENT

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I. SIGNS THAT WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH “NEGATIVE” DISCONTENTMENT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

“Contentment makes a poor man rich, discontent makes a rich man poor.” Benjamin Franklin

II. HOW CAN I LEARN TO BE CONTENT?

“¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² 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 4:11-12

1. GIVE _____ TO GOD

“³³ So no one can become my disciple without giving up everything for me.” Luke 14:33

“¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-- the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.” Romans 12:1-2

2. _____ ABOVE ALL ELSE

“³¹ “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:31-33

KEY: LIKE A CHILD, FOCUS ON _____, & TRUST HIM TO

“¹⁹ And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

3. REALIZE THAT IF I AM SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST, GOD HAS ME _____

“²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

KEY: TRUST IN _____

*“¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.”
Habakkuk 3:19*

“Everything in the universe is either caused by God or allowed by God, and there is no third category.”
Dr. Tony Evans

4. LEARN TO _____ MY CURRENT SITUATION

“⁴ This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵ “Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶ Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷ And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”” Jeremiah 29:4-7

KEY: LIVE BY _____

“¹ When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. ² The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. ³ Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴ This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. ⁵ From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master’s household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar’s household for Joseph’s sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. ⁶ So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!...

¹⁹ Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife’s story about how Joseph had treated her. ²⁰ So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king’s prisoners were held, and there he remained. ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. ²² Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. ²³ The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.” Genesis 39:1-6 & 19-23

5. GET A GRIP _____

KEYS:

i. REMAIN COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT _____

“³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

ii. REFUSE TO PLAY THE _____

*“¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² 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. ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:11-13*

iii. REFUSE TO _____ TO OTHERS

“⁴ Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else. ⁵ For we are each responsible for our own conduct.” Galatians 6:4-5

6. PRACTICE _____

*“¹⁸ No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

“⁶ Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

“²Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. ³For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.” James 1:2-4

“¹⁶ Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.” Colossians 3:16

KEY: AVOID _____

“¹⁶ Everything has come from You and everything belongs to You.” 1 Chronicles 29:16

“¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven’s lights.” James 1:17

7. REMEMBER, I’M _____

“¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.” Romans 8:18

“¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.” 1 Peter 2:11

“² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.” Colossians 3:2-4