Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #55

Contentment

[*1Timothy 6:8*](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=-101&sec=70649352) *— “If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”*

If there is anything that this pandemic has taught us, it is that we can get along with less than we think we can. One of the great tragedies of our sinful natures is to be continuously dissatisfied with what we have. That doesn’t mean everyone is dissatisfied with their lives, but it is a hidden principle in every heart that we want more, at least in America.

This country was founded on the desire for freedom. Freedom from domination by anyone or any system or anything that would suppress the heart and mind from having what it wants. And there is great joy in living in a country with that as its backbone. It was that thinking and availability that gave the early settlers the drive to explore and to build. It was that blessing that pushed men and women to move from their families and make their way in the great gold rush of the 1800s and to have their own property, and it is that same freedom that makes us the greatest nation in the world today.

But there is also a curse to having what the heart wants - discontentment. As much as we obtain there is always the desire for more. And the “more” is underlined with many different subjects. It could be the desire for more money or popularity or possessions. And some would say, “I don’t want that” and be perfectly honest in their intentions. However, the desire for more shows in subtle ways. Most people have the desire to be liked or respected by their peers. Most people have an insatiable need to know that their lives mean something and have value to others and to themselves. There are many people who search their whole lives to know they made a difference. And on it goes. The point is every soul has the longing in their heart to have more of something.

The Apostle Paul’s point is that life is not about what we achieve or what we have or don’t have. We were created to glorify the Father. (Rom 15:6) He built us to reflect Himself. (Gen 9:6) Not that we are God or ever will be but that we display His attributes. (Gen 5:1) He wants us to be content in knowing that He will provide all we need (Phil 4:19). That means the physical things we need and all the internal things we need emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. He has the ability to provide all things we need.

And its not that having “things” or even being famous or recognized for some great achievement is wrong. There have been many godly people who have experienced all those things. But “things” will never create what God really wants for us, contentment.

You may not enjoy your circumstances right now especially in the midst of everything we are dealing with concerning the virus but that has nothing to do with contentment when the heart is focused on what God has done for us and what lies ahead. Paul was a man who experienced great hardship in life as he pursued God’s call. He suffered greatly through many challenging circumstances, but those challenges helped him learn contentment in the midst of it all.

Can you imagine a day in your life when your heart was truly content with everything? I mean the people, the situations the conditions, etc. Can you imagine waking up every morning and knowing that all things are being taken care of and all that is expected of you is to be God’s child and live each day as they come? That is exactly what we have as God’s people. He wants us to be content, period. And there is no reason not to be.

The only reason we are not content every day is because there is something that we think we need or must have. But the joy of life is in accepting what comes every day is a gift from God and that He will provide all we need when we need it as we pursue Him and live according to His Word.