

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the Love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15-16 KJV

Desire and pride summarize what God means when He says, "Love NOT the world." What do you desire versus what do you need? What incites your desire? Then, there's pride. There's a vast difference between contentment, because you've done your best to honor God, and being proud of something because it is superior or equal to what men have done.

"Contentment with Godliness is great gain. For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." To think anything accomplished is better, because of you, is to enter into the same arena of pride as Satan when he said "I will." He assumed His power and beauty were his own. What we are and can do,

we do by God's Grace. Be thankful of any ability you possess and give God the glory for any accomplishment that tempts you to pride. Humble thankfulness characterizes believers. Pride characterizes unbelievers. If you're dependent on your heavenly Father to provide them to you, it's ok to need things that are in the world, but when you become totally obsessed with the procurement of said needs, when their acquisition takes priority over listening to and obeying God, you have just stepped over the line! You cannot listen to God if you do not read His Word. Prayer alone is not enough. Don't ask God for wisdom and then neglect His Word; that is like being hungry and staying in the living room when dinner is served. I am content if my work is thorough, my effort genuine, and I've done my best, because I love God and done it for Him. I shouldn't reflect with pride upon accomplishment as though I had accomplished it alone, because I didn't. If I have done anything good, it's because God has enabled me to do it. *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."* If you've done something well, rejoice that God has chosen to work through you for your benefit and others.



Love the Lord with all your heart,
Never think from Him to part,
And when all is done and gone,
He will say to you, "Well done!" ~CGP

Once you realize that it is God is working through you, the thrill of that knowledge will sustain you through any difficulty you may encounter in the task and instill a humble thankfulness in your heart when the task is complete. *"For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of HIS GOOD PLEASURE."* All criticism is directed squarely at God as long as you have faithfully obeyed. Jesus said, *"Blessed are they which are persecuted for Righteousness' sake: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My Sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in Heaven. If God be for us, WHO can be against us?"*

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him (know His Word), and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV