

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I Have Learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith To Be Content.” Philippians 4:11 KJV

Contentment is as much learned as reading and writing. As any squalling baby will attest, we are not born content. (Just a thought; I often wonder if Christ was a quiet baby?) Many never learn contentment. Happiness is the mindset of a contented heart. I once thought I was content with my life and possessions, but then the Lord sent a stroke my way. In my hospital bed I asked God, “Why did you take away my ability?” and the answer was, “I’m enough for you.” So I “learned”



to depend on God more than I had before, and I was content. Then God sent another stroke. Again helpless in my bed I asked “Why? The answer was, “I am still enough.” So I “learned” once more that God was still very much concerned about my needs and able to supply. We often think we NEED more than we actually do. I did, but God’s Word has clearly stated for millennia, *“Having food and raiment therewith be content. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or, ‘What shall we drink?’ or, ‘Wherewithal shall we be clothed?’ For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and ALL THESE THINGS shall be added unto you.”* I thought I had been seeking God FIRST, but He taught me there were many things I had let distract my faith. When did you last consider the ability to get yourself a glass of water as one of God’s provisions for your life? Or even the ability to stand and walk? Believe me, I find many more things, now, that are directly from God’s Storehouse; from a faithful wife to visiting doctors and nurses! We hardly ever consider needing or thanking God for His Strength to brush our teeth or bathe, but we do and should! *“In EVERYTHING give thanks!”* I am still “learning” contentment, everyday. I don’t compare myself to Job by any stretch, but I can certainly sympathize. So when I thought I was finally getting a handle on contentment, God put me in the hospital again! Boy! What I am finally starting to “learn” is; no matter how little you may have, God is always enough!

Content my God doth care for me,
Content that He has set me free,
Content He has prepared for me,
A Place for all eternity! –CGP

What will God have to take away from you before you begin being truly thankful and content with what He’s provided? Contentment is a learned response to the Grace of God no matter the circumstances! The Apostle Paul wrote;

“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was GIVEN to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 KJV