

CONTENTMENT

Paul said, "*Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content*" (Phil. 4:11). Paul had learned a lesson that men need to learn -- how to be content. Contentment means, "To be satisfied, contented with". Paul said to Timothy, "*But godliness with contentment is great gain*" (I Tim. 6: 6).

SIGNS OF DISCONTENTMENT

MURMURING is a sign of discontentment. To murmur is to grumble, to express displeasure, to fault-find, to be an objector and a critic. When we are discontented in our lives, we murmur. Paul said, "*Do all things without murmuring and disputings;*" (Phil. 2:14).

FRETTING is another sign of discontentment. To fret is to be displeased, grieved, and jealous. Christians must not envy others because they do well (Prov. 37: 1, 7).

The third sign of discontentment is ANXIETY. Paul said, "*Have no anxiety about anything*" (Phil. 4:6 RSV). To have anxiety is to be filled with worry.

The fourth sign of discontentment is FEAR. Jesus said, "*Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" (John 14: 27; I John 4:18).

SIGNS OF CONTENTMENT

A contented man has learned to limit his desires (Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4:11; I Tim. 6: 6). He has ease of mind (John 14: 1, 27). He will be willing to do what he can without murmuring and complaining (Col. 3:23; Phil. 2: 14).

WHAT PRODUCES CONTENTMENT?

SELF-DISCIPLINE (I Cor. 9:27; Phil. 4:11). Paul said, "*But I keep my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*"; and that he had "*...learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*"

TRUST IN GOD (Heb. 13:5, 6; Matt. 6:30). Paul said, "*... and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"

LOVE for God and our fellowman (Rom. 8: 28; I Cor. 13:7). "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God ...*" Love "*...beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*"

HELP OF JESUS CHRIST. "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*" (Phil. 4:13).

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