

Learning Contentment:

Evaluate your spending over the last 6 months:

1. Have I been disciplined and intentional about how I've spent my money and how much I am giving?
2. Are there possessions that hinder my ability to know and love God or love my family or neighbor?
3. Do I habitually purchase things I don't need or is more than I need simply because I want it or because it will boost my reputation?
4. Am I faithful in paying off my creditors?
5. In what ways can you commit to practice simplicity? Ideas:
 - Limit eating out
 - Cancel cable TV
 - Stop impulse buying by waiting 30 days before major purchase
 - Make a weekly menu, purchase items for it and stick to it
 - Compare prices of grocery stores
 - Buy used
 - Cancel memberships you don't use
 - Cut up credit cards
 - Find free entertainment

What percent of my income have I given to God? (last 6 months)

Average amount given/mo. \$ _____
(divided by)

Average monthly takehome: \$ _____

Equals: _____% (remove decimal point)

What spiritual goals will I make regarding money? How much do I want to give to God? To charities? To people in need?



Living Contentment

Jesus doesn't tell us to think _____ about money, he tells us to think more _____ about it.

The Key to living in God's economy:

_____ our emotions from money and possessions.

The Apostle Paul calls this _____. (*autarkeia*)

Contentment is a _____ detachment from money that knows its _____ but also its limitations.

Scripture: Philippians 4:10-20

The letter to the Philippians _____ contentment in all areas of life.

The Philippian Church sent money to Paul when he was under house _____ in Rome.

Paul was happy about their _____ for him, but that he didn't need the money because he was content.

- He was excited because their gift showed they were _____ in their faith.

Paul wasn't _____ content.

"I have _____ to be content whatever the circumstances." (vs. 11)

Learning contentment:

Remember

- You learn contentment by _____ contentment.
- It starts by _____ what the Bible teaches about money.

1. Remember who it _____ to. (Psalm 24:1)

- God has _____ some of it to you.

2. Practice "_____."

- The Jews were told to give their _____ and _____ to acknowledge their dependence on God.
- Contentment comes from _____ - _____. (vs 13)

3. _____ (Mt 19:16-22)

"Simplicity is the only thing that sufficiently reorients our lives so that possession can be genuinely enjoyed without destroying us."

--Richard Foster

"Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10