

“DISSATISFIED CONTENTMENT”

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(Vs) 2nd Peter 1:3-4 – His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these, He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

We have been offered all that we need to live Out Loud lives for Jesus!

- Yes... “Christians have everything they need for life and godliness and so have been empowered to godly living!”

Jesus speaks of these gifts when He shares...

(Vs) Matt. 7:24-27 – “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Sand = Your Way // Stone = Jesus’ Way

“As you have seen the mason take up first one stone, and then another, and then gradually build the house, so are you Christians to take first one virtue, and then another, and then another, and to pile up these stones of grace one upon the other until you have built a palace for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost.” – Spurgeon

(Vs) 2nd Peter 1:5-7 – “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.”

This Weeks Series closing passage...

(Vs) 2nd Peter 1:8 – For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's word teaches, "If you possess these qualities in increasing measure..."

- ... if you continually add these things to your life, you will BE more than just a temporary house to shelter and survive in, but a forever Home to be Successful, Productive and Effective with. This is a promise!

But you have to do more than just pray and ask for it... You have to want it!

- Paul said in... (Vs) Phil 3:12 – "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own."
- Notice: Paul does not say, "Because I am secure, I coast." He says, "Because He made me His own, I press on to make it my own."
- He longs for perfection. He longs for fullness. He is dissatisfied with his present state.
- His contentment is a dissatisfied contentment...

He knows that, in Christ, he has every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

(Vs) Eph. 1:3 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..."

- But he also knows that his experience of these blessings is not as full as it could be...

(Vs) Eph. 1:18-19 – "...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might."

- Paul knows that there is more to experience of the hope of our calling and the glory of our inheritance and the greatness of the power at work within us...

"As long as we live in this age—with its sin and pain—our contentment in God should always be a dissatisfied contentment." – Piper

(Vs) Phil. 3:14 – "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

- He wants not House, but Castle Experiences!

Therefore, in this way "Every believer, whose contentment is really from the Spirit of God, is a dissatisfied believer."

- **Yes**, Christians do have everything they need for life and godliness and so have been empowered to godly living...
- But, they will never one day look in the mirror and proclaim, "My life is loud enough."

Instead, a true Christian will come to understand two things...

- That they are far greater sinners than they ever thought they were, and that they are far more forgiven than they ever imagined.
- Finally resting in dissatisfied contentment with the knowledge that, "We're not Children of God because we're worthy. We're Children of God because God is merciful."

(Vs) Phil. 2:12 – "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling..."

So, with that insight... It's self-inventory time.

(Vs) 2nd Cor. 13:5 – "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

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Let's get personal in our inventory as we examine ourselves:

- Are you making every effort to increase your knowledge of God's character?
- Do you pray?
- Do you study God's Word?
- Are you engaging in fellowship?
- Are you maturing in self-control?
- How is your patience?
- What about your relationship with other believers? Your spouse? Your children? Your employer? Your neighbors?
- Are you loving the lost?

Question: Do you have anything to work on here?

- I think you do; I know I do; and so, I'm choosing to build my foundation upon the person of Jesus!

(Vs) 2nd Cor. 1:20 – "For all the promises of God find their 'Yes' in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter (Out Loud) our Amen to God for His glory."