

CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST

Only “in Christ” can true contentment be found. Contentment is experienced and cultivated in the maturing believer through learning obedience to the commands of Christ.

By faith in God’s promises we experience a type of contentment. Contentment of faith is believing that God is in you and working for your good. Resting in God’s work to change you for your good and produce the fruits of the Spirit in your life means you are dependent upon His power, guidance, and foreknowledge. God knows what satisfies you better than you do. Resting in God’s work does not mean that we are inactive. We are expecting Him to do His work as we cooperate with Him and be obedient to what we know He has commanded.

By experiencing God at work and seeing the changes He is making in us, we have another type of contentment. The contentment of experience is how the Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are truly a child of God. Experiencing God as we walk by faith is truly remarkable. We are actually having fellowship with God, experiencing His love, proving Him to be faithful, and accepting His disciplinary hand upon our life. And the contentment of experience goes beyond our personal fellowship with God. We find contentment in our relationship and fellowship with the people around us. The fruits of the Spirit are best recognized by us (in us) as we respond to our spouse, children, family, co-workers, and the general public. When we see the Spirit producing (in us) love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control we realize what a miracle it is. These fruits are not the natural responses of the flesh. Our flesh desires to do just the opposite of the fruits of the Spirit. So, we can find contentment and joy in just seeing these fruits come to life in us.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, Galatians 5:16,17a

Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation for the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41

The flesh is weak and we cannot do good except in the power of the Spirit.

Rejoice in God’s work in your life and be thankful for the life in the flesh He has saved you from.