

## **Witness Through Attitude: The Great Gain of Contentment**

By Kimberly Sowell

*Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV)*

Give my daughter a sticker, and she'll follow you anywhere. Offer my son a cracker, and you're his new best friend. What does it take to entice you? Satan knows as well as you do, and he is successfully luring many Christians into the trap of dissatisfaction by dangling their "wants" before their eyes. The quest for satisfaction is evidenced throughout our society as billions of dollars are successfully spent in advertising, convincing consumers that buying more products will grant them satisfaction. Those without Christ may feel particularly discouraged in their pursuit as they search for satisfaction in all the wrong places.

Christ offers the key to satisfaction through a personal relationship with Him. Do your peers see within you a contented heart that would compel them to desire Christ, or a distracted heart that always wants more? Your choice to live in godliness with a spirit of contentment will not only yield great gain in your life, but will also grant you a powerful credibility in your witness as others see how Jesus truly satisfies the soul. How can you adopt a spirit of contentment?

### **Contentment requires two ingredients.**

To be content, your needs must be met. James 1:17 teaches that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father. As a Christian, you can be confident that you will always have enough of what you need. The second ingredient is to acknowledge this sufficiency, and therefore, not require or demand any more than your current status. With God as your provider, you can be sure, discontent will only result out of your personal choice to want more.

### **Contentment is revealed in our conduct.**

Hebrews 13:5-6 sends a clear message about contentment: Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Have you considered how discontent might be a result of fear? Fear of being taken advantage of, fear of missing out on a privilege you "deserve," fear of being disappointed with your life...all of these fears can sabotage your witness if you become distracted and choose to act on these fears instead of boldly trusting in Jesus.

As you strive to let your light shine before men, carefully evaluate the messages you send to the world about the sufficiency of Christ. Count the blessings God has given to you. Thank the Lord for providing far beyond what you need or deserve. Then say it with conviction and live like you mean it: "I have enough."