

God is easy to please but hard to satisfy.

C.S. Lewis

## Satisfaction

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Finding satisfaction in today's world can be rather difficult. But Paul says in Philippians 4:6:

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Paul warns us not to be worried about any earthly thing. What we really need will be provided for us by God. But we mustn't get the idea that God is our handy-dandy grocery-man, that He will deliver just any old thing we want. What we want is not always what we need.

The Bible speaks plainly about contentment, or peace of mind. Continuing in Phillipians 4:11-14:

*"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."*

This is the kind of contentment that we need to have, each of us, as Christians. No matter what situation Paul finds himself in, he says he is content with it, moreover, he says that he is **instructed** to be content with it. And that last verse is very powerful; for it describes to us the kind of inner strength that we can have with Jesus Christ in us. We can do all things.

To rid ourselves of the physical cares of the world, a good scripture to read is Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." If our mind is thinking the right thoughts, we will be thinking spiritually, instead of physically. Our mind should not be filled with the worries of the world.

Hebrews 13:5 tells us to 'be content with what you have.' To do this, we first must not over-estimate the worth of material possessions. Secondly, we must not fret over what we don't have. Thirdly, we must not overlook what we do have.

We find from God's word that He takes care of those who obey Him. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, Paul says, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." God is telling us that we will have sufficient material things in which to do His will. He didn't say that he would give us just anything that we might want, He said that what he would give us would be enough for us to live with and to do good unto all men.

Sometimes as Christians we take the whole subject of worrying in the wrong way. When we read that we should have peace at heart and not be over concerned, we take it to mean that we don't have to be concerned with doing God's will. We have it all backwards. We are worried about money and our possessions, and don't care at all about the church or our sinful state. In other words, we are satisfied with what we are, but not with what we have.

### **We must strive instead to be satisfied with what we have but never with what we are.**

We are never good enough to deserve God's love or heaven or salvation. We can never do enough improving of ourselves, but we must keep trying. The only people whom we really must compete with and get better than is ourselves. We cannot be satisfied with our ability to live up to our ideals, for if we are, then our ideals are not high enough. Our ideals must be those that God gave us to live by.

*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

*Matthew 5:48*