



Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

CONTENTMENT

In **Philippians 4:11-13** Paul says **“Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am. I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want. I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].”**

The Amplified Bible describes being content as **"satisfied to the point where you are not disturbed or disquieted"**. It doesn't say satisfied to the point where you don't want change, but satisfied for now until God brings the change.

Philippians 4:6-7 sheds more light in this area by saying, **"Have no anxiety about anything, but in all things by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, continue to let God know what you want",** and **verse 7 "the peace that passes understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"**.

Don't be upset about anything, no matter what is happening. Pray about it, and tell God your need. While you're waiting for God to move, be a very thankful and grateful person for all that God has done for you already.

(Note: Let me say here that if God never did one thing for us except write our names in the Lamb's Book of Life- that alone is more than enough.)

Being thankful from the heart is necessary for the receiving of God's continued favor in our lives.

Then **verse 7** says after this:

1. Have no anxiety or care,
2. Tell God your need, and
3. Be thankful.

Then you will have tremendous peace and contentment no matter what state you're in while you're waiting for God to work out His will in your life.

Contentment also means that you resist complaining when you go through something that's hard on the flesh. It's hard not to complain even when we don't have difficult circumstances.

We complain about everything starting with our jobs, our house, our families, husbands or wives, children, name it and people complain.

And yet Jesus told us in **John 6:43** **"Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves"**. Also **Philippians 4: 6** says **"Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."**

The Word of God is full of scriptures with thanksgiving, which is the antidote for the poison of complaining.

There is a lot of complaining among believers and if you complain you remain in the same place spiritually, but if you praise and are thankful you'll be raised.



CONTENTMENT

Just for a moment, close your eyes, take a slow, deep breath and let go of everything. Rest. Nestle against the warmth of His chest and listen to the beating of His heart. It beats for you! Here you will find safety and peace. No one can pluck you out of His arms of love. You know the meaning of contentment!

Thanksgiving is a sacrifice, especially when we have a bad situation in our lives. When we choose to be grateful to God in such circumstances we prove that we have strong characters in Christ, peaceful in the midst of the storm, happy when we can't stand what is going on and we're looking to Jesus. All of those are hard on the flesh, but is one way we can let our flesh die. Consider those scriptures:

"Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High, And call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor and glorify Me." Psalm 50: 14, 15

“Oh, that men would praise [and confess to] the Lord for His goodness and loving-kindness and His wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and rehearse His deeds with shouts of joy and singing!” Psalm 107:21, 22

“I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.” Psalm 107:17

We can't call on the name of our Lord and complain at the same time. There's no power in that.

Hebrews 13: 15 says, “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Philippians 2: 14 says, “Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves].”

Also **I Thessalonians 5: 18** tells us to thank God in everything and to avoid complaining, questioning and doubting...**“in everything give thanks** [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], **for this is the will of God for you** [who are] **in Christ Jesus** [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].”

That doesn't mean that we are to thank God for all the negative circumstances, but we are to give Him thanks in them. It's a choice and a praising life is a powerful life. We need to give God the best in every area of our lives and if our circumstances are good or bad we still praise God. We need to learn to worship God in the wilderness, not just when everything is good in our lives. We honor God by our actions, attitudes, words, thoughts and actions.

What are we living for? Are we striving to get more stuff in our lives or do we give all to Him to use it for his purpose?

Revelation 3: 8 says “I know the record of your works and what you are doing. See I have set before you a wide door wide open which no one is able to shut; I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My Word and guarded My message and have not renounced My name.”



If you're in a situation in your life and have been waiting for a long time for God to move then be content until He moves. Also, try stepping out in faith.

There were two farmers who desperately needed it to rain. Both were praying for rain, both were content, yet only one went out to prepare the fields to receive the rain.

Which one do you think acted out in faith?

God will send the rain in His timing; be content and prepare the fields to receive the rain!