

1. We are continuing with our series this morning about contentment.
2. For this series we have defined contentment as being satisfied with what we have or where we are.
3. The Lord is working in our life for the purpose of moving us toward spiritual maturity. He has an end goal in mind for our lives.
4. We also know from the book of Psalms that desires are a good thing. If we delight ourselves in the Lord, he gives us the desires of our heart.
5. None of us has reached the finish line in our walk with the Lord, and yet, right now, the Lord desires that we be content with where we are in that process and with what the Lord has given us today.
6. **1 Timothy 6:6** But godliness with contentment is great gain.
7. Godliness is surrendering to the Lord's work in our lives, and when we add contentment to that godliness, there is great gain in our lives.
8. Last Sunday we discovered the true source of Godly contentment.
9. **Philippians 4:13** For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
10. We said the secret to contentment is to live life through the strength and power that only Jesus Christ can give.
11. We also discovered three sources that do not produce Godly contentment.
12. If we base our contentment on what others do or don't do, contentment will be far from us because people will let us down.
13. If we base our contentment on what we have or don't have, contentment will rarely be our companion, because none of us can evade the struggles and troubles of life.
14. If we base our contentment on what we can do or not do in our own strength, contentment will regularly be absent from our lives because life tends to suck the strength right out of us.
15. The only true source for godly contentment is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is only through him that we can be in the process of being molded and changed by the Lord, and at the same time be content with where the Lord has us.
16. Let's move on this morning to the next principle of contentment.

TEXT: **1 Timothy 6:6-10** But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. **8** But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. **9** Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

TITLE: **Faith or fret?**

INTRO:

1. That word fret can also mean to worry, fuss, be hassled, be bothered, or be troubled.
2. In verse 6, Paul tells Timothy that godliness with contentment is great gain. What are some of the things that we gain when we seek to be godly, and at the same time see contentment in the Lord?
3. When we practice contentment, there isn't nearly as much room for fretting, worrying, fussing, being hassled, being bothered, or being troubled.
4. Contentment is essentially an absence of those life draining emotions and actions.
5. However, where contentment isn't being practiced, there is an abundance of those life draining emotions and actions.
6. This next question is not meant to be judgmental; it is meant to identify the state of our world.
7. I asked the question last Sunday; how many would use the word content to describe our world today.
8. From up here the body language and the head nods made it perfectly clear that most of us wouldn't use the word content to describe our world.
9. Let me ask the question this way. How many of us would use the words or phrases fretting, worrying, fussing, being hassled, being bothered, or being troubled, to describe our world today?
10. I believe most of us would. Fretting, worrying, fussing, being hassled, being bothered, or being troubled are almost everywhere you look.

11. And these aren't temporary states of being, they are permanent. They never go away.
12. Now, as believers, it is impossible to avoid fretting, worrying, fussing, being hassled, being bothered, or being troubled, completely.
13. The scripture is clear those emotions and experiences are a part of being human.
14. But as believers in Jesus, our lives were never meant to be centered around those things. Our lives are meant to be centered around godliness that is accompanied by contentment.
15. How many would agree?
16. So, let me give you the key statement or truth for this message.
17. This truth is not meant to condemn, it is meant to identify truth so we can align our lives with that truth.
18. **Lack of contentment is a faith issue.**
19. If I am lacking in contentment, then I am usually lacking in faith.
20. **We will come back to this verse and look at it more closely, 1 Timothy 6:10 Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**
21. If godliness with contentment is great gain, then godliness without contentment is great loss. What do we lose when we experience a lack of contentment? Among other things Paul says that a lack of contentment can cause us to wander from the faith.
22. In order to be moving closer to the Lord, I must practice contentment because contentment is a faith issue.
23. Because if lack of contentment is a lack of faith, then a lack of faith moves me away from the Lord.
24. All throughout the bible we are reminded that living for the Lord is an act of faith, and that without faith it is impossible to please God.
25. In verse 7 Paul bookends why a life of faith is so important.
26. **1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.**
27. When we were born, we didn't bring anything with us and when we die, we won't take anything with us, so whatever we have in between better be based on faith in Jesus Christ or else we will end up where Solomon did and that is living out a meaningless, empty life.

28. Job said it this way. Job 1:21 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."
29. I started naked and I will finish naked, so everything in the middle is from the Lord.
30. Without a doubt, there are several things we will need along this journey of life, and in verse 8 Paul mentions two of them.
31. 1 Timothy 6:8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.
32. It's been said that food, clothing, and shelter are our most basic needs. For sure they are not our only needs, but if we have those three needs met then we can survive.
33. Paul is essentially saying in verse 8 that if we have food and clothing, then we should be content with that.
34. It's not that we should never desire anything else, desires are not bad or wrong, but accept the fact that any desire beyond food and clothing is a benefit from the Lord that is above and beyond the basics.
35. However, Paul had lived long enough to learn some things about human nature. We have inside of us this fleshly nature that continually wants more than what God gives.
36. And we also have an enemy who loves to constantly lie to us and tell us that if we don't get what we think we deserve, then God must not be the loving, giving father that the bible says he is.
37. And so, as Solomon said in the book of Ecclesiastes, we long for more. No matter how much we see or hear, we are not content.
38. Then in verse 9 Paul gives an example of a pursuit that is born out of a lack of contentment.
39. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.
40. What is this unhealthy pursuit that is born out of a lack of contentment? It is the longing to be rich. The love of money. And craving money.
41. To be clear, money is not the problem. I have said it before, and I say it again.

42. Money is not the root of all kinds of evil. I was reading an article the other day and they misquoted this verse. They said money is the root of all kinds of evil. Not true.
43. Paul says the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Money is not good or bad money is a tool.
44. It is our attitude toward money that is good, bad, or evil.
45. In verse 9 we find that people who long to be rich fall into temptation and if the temptation is given into, they become trapped by these harmful desires that cause them to sell their soul to the devil, if you will, just to have more money.
46. And the end result of giving into this longing to be rich is that it leads to ruin and destruction.
47. In verse 10 Paul states the same principle in a little different way.
48. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, and some people because of their craving for money have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. (fretting, worrying, fussing, being hassled, being bothered, or being troubled)
49. So, if we put this all together, we see the progression of the downward spiral that lack of contentment brings.
50. When we are not content with what the Lord has provided for us or where he has us, we...
- Long for what we don't have.
 - Fall into temptation.
 - Become trapped by our own foolish and harmful desires.
 - And are plunged into ruin and destruction.
51. Now. Those are just the physical consequences. How about the spiritual?

52. When we are not content with what the Lord has provided for us or where he has us, we...
- Begin moving away from the lord and toward evil.
 - That wayward movement from the lord toward evil eventually causes us to wander from the faith.
 - And that wandering from the faith pierces our lives with many sorrows, not the least of which is that we lose our soul and the promise of heaven.
53. Now, let me play devils advocate for just a moment.
54. Are you serious pastor? Aren't you being a little bit dramatic? Aren't you making a bigger deal out of a little bit of discontentment than it really is? Do you expect me to believe that if not checked and put in its place that a little bit of discontentment leads to evil?
55. As a matter of fact I am serious. Not making a big deal. Not being dramatic, and am sure about the use of the word evil.
56. Being discontent with what God provides, or where he has us, is a lack of faith in Him. It is as if to say to God, I can do better and I know better. We in essence try and flex our muscle to become our own God.
57. The problem is we can't do better than God. We make terrible gods. Out trying to be little gods always leads to a mess.
58. Being content with what God provides is a sign of faith in him. It is to say to God, God, I trust you.
59. Lord, you know exactly what I need and what I can handle and when I can handle it and I trust you to lead and guide my life.
60. If you ever want to get a master's degree on the effects of discontentment in our life, begin in Exodus chapter 14 and read all the way to chapter 34.
61. When the children of Israel escaped Egypt, and fled toward the desert, we get a glimpse of the true nature of their faith in the Lord.
62. They were never happy with anything. No matter what God provided for them or how he provided it for them, they were never satisfied.

63. They complained. They gripped. They got mad. They fussed. They fought. They argued.
64. They disobeyed. They threatened to kill Moses and Aaron more than once. They were almost never content, and it cost them the promised land.
65. More than once, God told Moses to move away from those rebellious people so he could wipe them out and start over.
66. I really don't like to read about God's response and then look very deeply into my own heart, because if I do, I will really see what God thinks about my attitudes and my behavior.

Conclusion: Look at Teresa.

1. About a year ago my wife and I were talking one evening about what the Lord was doing in our lives individually, and we realized that about the same time, the Lord was working in and on both of us in the area of contentment.
2. We realized the lord was trying to cultivate a place of contentment in our hearts.
3. Some time before we had made a couple of unwise decisions financially, and we were dealing with some of the consequences of those decisions.
4. The lord was working, and he was helping us, but just between you and me, he wasn't doing it as fast as I would have liked. So, I wasn't content about some things.
5. So I started this file on contentment, and for a period of time, every time the Lord would give me something about contentment, I would write it down.
6. One day I was complaining to the Lord, and this was the message I heard from Him.
7. The situation you are in is so hard because you continue to fight what I am doing right now. If you would quit fighting it and just trust me, it won't be nearly as difficult.
8. Ouch. I have to tell you I licked my wounds for a couple of days. That stung.

9. And then on about the third day I heard from the Lord again. This time he said... **Thankfulness kills discontentment and feeds contentment.**
10. One of the keys to contentment is to take one day at a time. One hour at a time. One moment at a time and be thankful to the Lord for what he is doing and what he is providing, even when you can't see it. That's faith.
11. I believe that's part of the message of **Psalm 118:24** This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. (NLT)
11. **Contentment is a faith issue.** Without contentment we start on a downward spiral to trouble.
12. But with contentment our soul is at rest and at peace. Not because everything is ok, but because we are ok.
13. Be thankful.
14. Pray.
15. Have you been spiraling downward because of discontentment in your life.
16. Freedom is just on the other side of acknowledging and confessing it to the Lord.
17. Confess that you have not been exercising faith in the Lord.
18. Now, follow that up with thankfulness.
19. Tell Him the reason you are thanking Him is because you trust him with...
- What he's given you.
 - Where he's got you.
 - What he's doing in you.