*THE PRACTICE of GODLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Seven– “Contentment” – 1 Timothy 6:6**

**“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.”**

**(1Timothy 6:6NASB)**

*“Contentment is one of the most distinguishing traits of the godly person because a godly person has his heart focused on God rather than on possessions or position or power…The contented person experiences the sufficiency of God’s provision for his needs and the sufficiency of God’s grace for his circumstances. He believes that God will indeed meet all his material needs and that He will work in all his circumstances for his good. That is why Paul could say, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” The godly person has found what the greedy or envious or discontented person always searches for but never finds: HE HAS FOUND SATISFACTION AND REST IN HIS SOUL.” (pg.81-82)*

**C** ontentment in the Bible is often associated with possessions or money. To be content with

**O** ne’s possessions is one of the most strongly worded exhortations in Scripture. It’s a clear and

**N** oteworthy warning in Hebrews 5:13 to keep our lives free from the love of money and to be

**T** ruly content with what we have because God Himself has promised never to leave us. (pg.83)

**E** ven if to some degree you have won the battle of contentment regarding possessions, we can

**N** evertheless all too often fail in the battle of contentment regarding our position & our gifts in

**T** he body of Christ. God has the right to put each of us where He pleases. He not only has the

**M** onumental right, He exercises it, as seen in 1 Corinthians 12:11 “…just as He determines.”

**E** very one of us must accept not only our position in the body of Christ, but also learn and take

**N** ote that we are also to be content with our position in society. We must remember that our

**T** ime here on earth, though we do not deserve to even be here, is by God’s sovereign and loving appointment. If you and I will be dependent upon Christ, He will give us the grace (in the sense of divine enablement) to be faithful and content in any and every situation. (pg.’s 88-92)

**How then can you and I live out “the secret of being content” (Philippians 4: 11) with our possessions, with our position and with the providence of God in our lives?**

**Here are some practical ways to cultivate a heart of contentment:**

Praise God for His gracious pardon, presence, power, provision, and providence in your life

Prevent yourself from ever questioning the goodness of God and find joy in knowing Him

Purposefully renew your mind daily in the Word of God and embrace His promises

Ponder God’s prohibitions and warnings about the dangers of envy, greed, jealousy, and pride

Pray and ask God to bring to your mind specific things that you are discontent with

Pay attention to when the Holy Spirit convicts you of not being content in your circumstances

Pause and confess your sins to God then linger long on particular verses that will sanctify you

Personalize those verses that need to be memorized in your battle against discontentment

Place passages of Scripture strategically around your home as a reminder to be content

Plead with God and trust Him to help you daily focus on Christ and to die daily to your self focus

Plan ways for how you can live a life that aims at pleasing the Lord and preferring others first

Jerry Bridges ends this chapter by saying that, “In all of the areas in which we are called upon to be content—whether possessions, position, or the providence of God---***THE GRACE OF GOD*** is the ultimate solution for our discontentment…He states, “This is the secret to being content: to learn and accept that we live daily by God’s unmerited favor given through Christ *(His saving grace)* and that **we can** respond to any and every situation in a godly manner by His divine assistance *(His sanctifying grace)* through the Holy Spirit.” (pg. 96)

Ladies, is your life marked by contentment? Are you satisfied with what you have? Are you satisfied with where God has placed you? Are you satisfied to stay in your circumstances for as long as God wills? Are you ready and willing to put into practice some practical ways to cultivate a heart of contentment? Who or what are you desiring today more than knowing Christ? What is your prayer?

***“Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”***

***(Psalm 73:25-26NASB)***

Pressing onward and looking upward in our pursuit of holiness and our practice of godliness,

Christyn