



Dear Saints,

This devotion is a your basic bread and butter devotion about being content in Jesus. It came to me from WELS evangelism e-devotions and I thought it would be good food for your souls today.

Pastorp

In Christ We Are Content

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 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. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. - 1 Timothy 6:6-12

There is daily warfare going on inside every believer. Our sinful nature wants to love the pleasures of life here on earth more than God and his eternal plan for us. Our sinful nature doesn't count the blessings we have, but rather it grumbles about what we don't have in comparison to other people.

Our new nature of faith, however, loves God and his will for our lives. That new nature leads us to be content with the necessities of life that God provides. Our new nature of faith does not want the accumulation of money to get in the way of worshipping and praising God. It moves us to hear and study God's Word for the benefit of our faith and relationship with God.

This daily struggle inside of us, between the sinful, discontented nature and the new, fully contented nature, is very real. God warns us that craving money and the things money can buy is detrimental to our spiritual life. Loving money and wanting to become rich can turn us away from God and cause us to lose the amazing riches of forgiveness and eternal life.

Through faith in our Savior Jesus, we are richly blessed. God has counted Jesus' perfectly contented life as our own. By his death on the cross, Jesus suffered the eternal punishment of hell for every one of our discontented thoughts, words, and actions. By faith in our living Savior, we are blessed with the sure hope of eternal life in heaven, free from the greed, excess, and financial stress of this world.

Now, as called children of God, benefactors of the spiritual riches of Christ, empowered and motivated by God's love, let's daily strive to follow the lead of our new nature of faith. In this way, we give glory to God by showing the world that when we are rich in Christ, it really doesn't matter how much money we have in our bank accounts, the kind of car we drive, the size of our home, or the amount of earthly possessions. In Christ we are content!

Prayer:

Forgive me Lord, for not being completely thankful and content with the way that you have provided for me. Forgive me for the times my heart craves the wealth of this world and fails to be thankful for my spiritual riches in Christ. Open my eyes, my mind, and my heart to see and understand the vastness of your spiritual and physical blessings. Let my life on earth reflect how truly thankful I am for all you have given me. Amen