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## Godly Contentment

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WHAT'S  
SOMETHING  
YOU'VE  
ENJOYED  
COLLECTING?

## The POINT >

Godliness with contentment  
is great gain.

### > 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11,17-19

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction.

<sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

<sup>11</sup>But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

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<sup>17</sup>Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, <sup>19</sup>storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

In 2013, Kevin Silva was recognized by Guinness World Records for having the world's biggest collection of Batman memorabilia with over 2,501 items.<sup>2</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CREATION

People are God's most loved creation and have been given responsibility for overseeing His creation. As we steward it for His purposes, we reflect God's character and authority.

Through the years, I've collected many things including baseball cards. When I turned 10, my dad gave me one of his pocket knives, and that was the beginning of my knife collection. Collecting can be a good hobby, whether it's comic books, action figures, or something else entirely. Organizing and displaying the things we value can be quite enjoyable, and of course, there's the thrill of the hunt. But for some people, collecting isn't just a hobby; it's an obsession. Psychologists have identified a common trait among hoarders—*anxiety*.<sup>1</sup>

We've all experienced a feeling of security from something we've owned, even if that sense of security was short-lived. However, seeking security and contentment from material possessions is worthless. Even trying to find security and contentment in people is ultimately impossible, because people will let us down at one time or another.

We don't get our contentment from people or things, no matter how many things or relationships we have. God offers us an easier (and better) approach. When we devote ourselves to knowing and loving Jesus and when we live as He lived, we'll find peace and contentment.

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8

**1** Why does contentment sometimes seem so elusive?

**2** When has a desire for a specific possession led you to feel discontent?



*The only cure for greed is generosity. #BSFLsimplicity*



## 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

**6** How do we maintain a healthy balance between valuing money and contentment?

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:9-11

**3** What “traps” can an unhealthy pursuit of wealth create?

**4** How can we recognize when money is becoming an idol?

**5** How does pursuing healthy traits free us from the love of money?

**7** What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven?

**8** What truths about God help you put your hope in Him, rather than your possessions?



# LIVE IT OUT

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CREATION

*People are God's most loved creation and have been given responsibility for overseeing His creation. As we steward it for His purposes, we reflect God's character and authority.*

Part of our call—as people created in God's image, and more specifically as those who live by faith in Jesus—is to steward God's creation well. God is the owner of all things, and everything He entrusts to us is to be used for His purposes and not for our own selfish desires. We experience true contentment when we see our own possessions as ultimately belonging to God and live trusting He will provide for us exactly what we need.

## >CHRIST

A relationship with Christ always results in transformation. This means, because of our salvation, our love for temporary, worldly things is replaced by a love for Jesus.

**9** How does your life demonstrate you love Jesus and not money or material things?

**10** How will you replace worldly desires with healthy, spiritual ones?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

**CREATION**

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD



# >COMMUNITY

The love of money is marked by selfish pursuits. However, Jesus taught that to love Him is to love others, even as we love ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). The church is to be characterized by the love we show each other.

**11** How has someone in your church family loved you in a real way that required them to sacrifice something?



**12** What need are you aware of that would require sacrifice of you? How will you meet it?

# >CULTURE

Our culture is characterized by the love of money and other material things. Paul said this is a trap that plunges people into destruction.

**13** What sort of “destruction” do people experience as a result of this perspective?

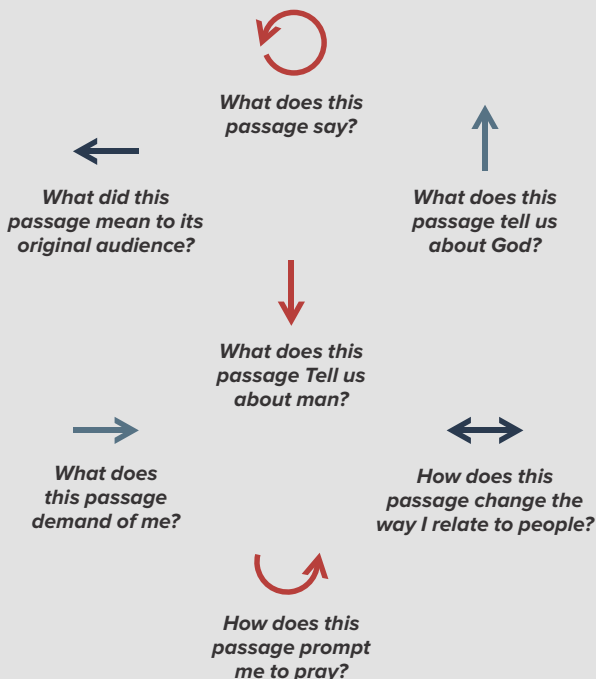
NOW	IN THE FUTURE	FOR ETERNITY

**14** How will you help those who love money recognize this truth and the hope found in Jesus?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One

## HEBREWS 13:5a

People love money. The “love of money” in this particular passage refers to coveting, which is the strong desire for something that belongs to another person. Coveting, in fact, is one of the sins explicitly forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:17), and it is considered a terrible offense in Scripture. Today, even among many Christians, an unhealthy desire for material possessions is often passed off as no big deal. It’s important we understand this—not all desires for material things are unhealthy. It’s perfectly appropriate to desire the things we need: food, clothing, shelter, and other basics. In our culture, in order to function well in society, we probably need transportation, and it’s not a bad thing to save for a family vacation. But when we cross the line into desiring an indulgent lifestyle, particularly at the expense of serving others who need our generosity, our desires have become unhealthy. To love God means to keep our hearts free from loving money.

➤ **How are you tempted to love material possessions in an unhealthy way?**

➤ **How does loving Jesus keep our hearts from loving money?**

## Day Two

# HEBREWS 13:5b



We often look at the lives of the wealthy and think to ourselves, *if I had what they have, it would be easy to be happy*. After all, they have clothes and cars, houses and vacations, and they also have the admiration of others and many freedoms and privileges (which only money can buy) that we will never experience. It's natural to want these things, but God hasn't called us to live natural, worldly lives. He's called us to thinking and desires transformed by the power of the spirit and to be totally satisfied in Him. The truth is, no matter what the world tells us, all the riches in the world can never satisfy. True satisfaction is found only in Jesus.

➤ **Where does the world say we find satisfaction? Why do these always disappoint?**

➤ **How does the Spirit help us to have an eternal perspective?**

## Day Three

# HEBREWS 13:5c

When Jacob deceived Isaac and stole his brother's blessing, Esau was furious, to say the least, and Jacob fled for his life. When Joshua took over from Moses the responsibility of leading God's people, he was tasked with driving the powerful inhabitants out of the promised land—a seemingly impossible task. As David neared the end of his life, he commissioned Solomon not only to follow as king of Israel, but to fulfill the special task of building the temple where God would dwell among His people. Each of these circumstances were challenging and beyond the control of mere humans. To fear for one's life, to take on powerful armies, or to take on the responsibility of building the holy place where God would dwell is enough to cause many to be afraid. However, in each of these situations, there was a promise—God is with you (Gen. 28:15; Josh. 1:5; 1 Chron. 28:20). In this life, there will be times when we're afraid, uneasy, or discontent, but the same promise applies to us today—for God's children, He is with us, and that is enough.

➤ **When has God's presence helped you deal with struggles?**

➤ **How can a relationship with God help us to be content in all circumstances?**

## Day Four

# HEBREWS 13:6a

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Following Jesus is a bold decision, and as His followers, making courageous choices doesn't end after that first one. Let's not mistake what bold means here. Sometimes, we equate bold with being brash, overbearing, or rude—and without God's grace tempering our boldness, this can happen. However, boldness which is empowered by the Spirit of God is simply living out of confidence in Him. It's refusing to let emotional responses to difficult situations drive our choices, and instead, making the purposeful decision to live by faith in God. Contentment is a bold choice. After all, the world tells us we need more and more, and refusing to buy into this way of thinking can cause others to see us as weird or different. But when we pursue God's purposes and trust that He is in control, we can have a Christ-honoring confidence that's totally free of the world's way of thinking.

- **How have you been bold in ways that didn't honor Christ?**
- **How do you see contentment in Christ as a bold choice?**

## Day Five

# HEBREWS 13:6b

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Hebrews 13:6 is a quotation from Psalm 118, which scholars believe was written by Moses after the Israelites were delivered from slavery in Egypt. God's people had suffered unimaginably, and as they followed God's plan, it seemed things only got worse—they found themselves with the world's most powerful army on one side and an ocean on the other. In that moment, it seemed what-man-can-do-to-me was pretty bad. However, God had something special in mind, and He provided exactly what His people needed at just the right moment. What we desire may not always be what God has in mind. True contentment means always trusting that God will provide exactly what we need.

- **When has God provided for you in an unexpected way?**
- **How can remembering situations like this help you live with trust and contentment?**