

Spiritual How-to's
How to please the Lord
Learn to be content
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Intro. If you had one opportunity to make an impact, what would you do, how would you pray?

Agur is only heard of once in history in an ancient, written document in which he writes about 6 questions, coming generations, 4 mysteries, 4 small & wise creatures, & 4 stately things.

In that chapter is his two prong request to God before he dies.

That 2 part request contains our topic

I. In Proverbs 30:7-9 we read his prayer –

“God, there are 2 things I am asking you for before I die, only 2: Empty out of my heart everything that is false – every lie, and every crooked thing. And give me neither undue poverty nor undue wealth – but rather, feed my soul with the measure of prosperity that pleases you.” TPT

- A. Way to make a lasting impression, Agur! Cheers to you, great prayer, right?
- B. We could spend time on the first part of his prayer, to be emptied of all lies, falsehoods and crookedness within him, but we won't.
 - 1. However, let's do think about any lies and falsehoods we are harboring or practicing.
 - 2. It would be safe to say that it would please the Lord, for it all to be removed.
- C. But then, Agur asks for the Lord to give him the measure of prosperity that pleases THE LORD, not that pleases him. That's wild.
- D. He was asking the Lord to teach him to be content. THAT, is our focus today, contentment.

II. There is a measure of prosperity for each of us that pleases the Lord. Learning to be content in that without whining, overachieving, or comparing is one of life's lessons.

- A. It is nearly impossible to be content in this generation without a powerful sense of peace, value and purpose that only God can give.
- B. In our consumer driven society, it's all about the comforts gained by goods and services. Marketing dollars drive all sorts of product to our inboxes, feeds, store fronts, homes and offices.
 - 1. And because technology is so rapidly improving, we are made to believe that what we have must be upgraded to the latest & greatest version
 - 2. I get it, I live it, I am struggle with it too!
- C. And to top it off, we have the smart phone algorithms that fuel our dopamine-driven feedback loops.

1. With each notification, text, like comes a dopamine influx and our reward circuitry spikes making our brain ask for more and more.
2. We have been programmed to want more and to never be content
3. Considering that the average person spends 2-4 hours a day on social media,
4. Utilizing 2,600 daily touches, contentment seems far from our grasp.

III. And yet, the bible echos Agur's call – teach me to be content with what pleases you, Lord.

A. As stated earlier, without a measure of God's peace & values, contentment is unattainable. But 1 Tim. 6:6 says, "godliness with contentment = great gain."

1. That means, with God's peace & presence in our lives comes a perfect condition in which we have a sufficiency from the necessities of life.
2. We have a mind contented with its lot

B. This contentment however, as implied by the Greek word meaning, carries with it the idea of raising a barrier to ward off something.

1. It is up to us to ward off the barrage of influences that seek to make us discontent with who we are or what we have
2. It is up to us to be possessed by an unfading strength that who we are is enough for God and what we have is sufficient.

3. It's up to us to choose contentment rather than lusting for more and better

C. 1 Tim. 6:8 says "if we have food and clothing, with this we shall be content."

D. In Phil. 4:11-13, Paul tells us that he has learned in whatever situation he is in to be content.

1. He speaks of facing hunger and abundance
2. he speaks of being brought low & knowing how to abound
3. He says that in any & every circumstance he has found the secret
4. The secret is, he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him
5. He has learned the secret of finding contentment in God's presence & provision

E. In Hebrews 13:5 we are told to "keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have."

1. This is such a wise admonition
2. It is the love of money that lies at the root of our discontentment
3. This love for money in the Greek is showing an extremely strong wish to get or keep possessions or money
4. It is often a pathological greed for money or valuables

F. We do know that at our fleshly, soulish level, lies a leech. It is never satisfied and cries out always and forever 2 things – GIVE & GIVE me more. Prov. 30:15

IV. There has to arise from within us a **cry** that says, “**Jesus you are enough. You are my everything.** Give me today my daily bread and teach me to be content with it.”

A. I shall not want or lack anything, if the Lord is my shepherd

B. I have learned to be content in whatever situation I am in and I have great gain.

C. He will never leave me and He will provide for me the measure of prosperity that pleases Him.

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