

Introduction: The Contentment Check List

1. Contentment is **learned**, not **achieved**. (Philippians 4:10-13)
2. Greed must **die** before contentment can **live**. (Phil. 4:14-18; Luke 16:10-13)

How?

- Develop Personal Compassion
 - Develop a Generous Spirit
 - Develop an Eternal Perspective
3. Our treasure both **reveals** and **directs** the affections of our hearts. (Matt 6:21)

The Problem: What about _____?

The Solution:

“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

- The Promise _____.
 - The Premise _____.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

The Principle: The Law of the _____.

- Explained – Luke 6:38
- Illustrated in Nature – John 12:24
- Applied to Jesus – Philippians 2:8-11
- Applied to Us – Luke 9:24

“You Never Reap in the Same Season That You Sow”

The Process: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)

- **The Principle Restated**: When you have a need, _____ . (v.6)

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

- **The Procedure Outlined**: Give with the right _____. (v.7)

⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- **The Promise Expanded**: God will give you _____ you need in _____ area of your life. (vs.8-11)

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

⁹As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

The Practice: God's Challenge to You

Test Me! Try It! I Dare You!

¹⁰"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. . . **Test me** in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it!"

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

I, _____ choose to take God up on His challenge/promise and trust Him to meet all my needs. I take this step by committing the _____ of my income to the Lord for the next 90 days.

Signed

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship between experiencing contentment and living by faith?
2. Why is giving such an integral part of activating the "faith component" in our lives?
3. In what area of your life do you have a great need? What would "planting a seed" look like in this area?
4. Share the specific step of faith or obedience God has directed you to take.