

Financial Freedom: 2 of 4
“Contentment”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
November 18, 2018

Big Idea: To have greater financial freedom, I must be wise with my wealth and trust that God is my ultimate provider.

How Do I Learn Contentment?

1. Refuse To _____

“But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don’t have troubles like other people; they’re not plagued with problems like everyone else.”

Psalms 73:2-5 (NLT2)

“You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:17 (NLT2)

“You cannot serve both God and money. “That is why I tell you not to worry about **everyday life**—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more **valuable** to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?” **Matthew 6:24b-27 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. Enjoy _____

“I know how to live on almost **nothing** or with **everything**. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:12-13 (NLT2) Remember Verse

“Yet true **godliness** with **contentment** is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.”

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

3. Pray For A Healthy _____

(Prayer of Agur) "Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: ⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me **neither poverty nor riches**, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God." **Proverbs 30:7-9 (NIV)**

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things **dominate** the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already **knows** all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT2)

"And he went on to say to them all, "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your **true life** is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be." **Luke 12:15 (TEV)**

Notes: _____

4. Focus On _____

"But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the **love of money** is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, **craving money**, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness."

1 Timothy 6:9-11 (NLT2)

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. **Their trust should be in God**, who richly gives us all we need for our **enjoyment**. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in **good works** and **generous** to those in need, always being ready to **share** with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may **experience true life**."

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

To Gain Financial Freedom, I Will:

- Refuse to compare myself with others
- Pray as a family and give thanks to God for what I have
- Pay off a small debt by Christmas
- Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior

- I would like to help "Deck The Halls" Dec. 1

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Open your group with a prayer.

Icebreaker: In our society, how is success usually measured?
From what sources do you feel pressured to meet this standard?

Big Idea: To have greater financial freedom, I must be wise with my wealth and trust that God is my ultimate provider.

How Do I Learn Contentment?

1. Refuse To Compare Myself To Others

Read Psalm 73:2-5

Do you find at times you compare yourself to other people on Facebook?
One of the problems with Facebook is that people seem to post the highlights of their lives. This can live the impression that everything is going well or even amazing. Is that really the case?

Do you ever feel that your life is unfair compared to others?

What helps you through this?

Why do we always compare up rather than down?

Read Matthew 6:24b-27

What is the downside of worry?

Why should we believe God will provide for our needs?

How does God view us?

2. Enjoy What I Have

Read Philippians 4:12-13 – Remember verse

What can you learn from the hard times you have gone through?

How can Jesus help you?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8

What is needed with contentment? Why?

How does the reminder that we brought nothing into the world, and we can't take anything out of it, help your perspective?

3. Pray For A Healthy Balanced Perspective

Read Proverbs 30:7-9

How does the prayer of Agur give a balanced perspective?

Are you willing to pray this prayer?

Read Matthew 6:31-33

Is there a need or want that sometimes dominates your thoughts? Share.

What kingdom would your friends say that you are seeking in the last month or so?

Read Luke 12:15

How does this verse help you battle against greed?

Finish this sentence, "My true life is..."

4. Focus On What Will Last Forever

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-11

What is the danger about wanting to be rich?

What have you learned from the past that helps you now?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

When have you been tempted to be a lover of money?

What is the difference between enjoying money and being a "lover of money?"

How can you demonstrate your trust in God, rather than money?

Close in Prayer: _____

