



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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Dear Friends of Mary Craig Ministries,

It starts young; the wanting, I mean. At two, one of our grandchildren stretched out his arms, his fingers moving in and out, reaching to grasp what he wanted NOW. His body shook with excitement; he could hardly contain himself. Birthday cake! Right then we all smiled; it was very cute.

Outright ungodly desire the Bible calls the lust of the eyes and greed, never being satisfied. Just watch the news accounts of “Black Friday.” Check out the advertisements feeding it all, every year getting more alluring. This product will provide security; that one will get the girl. One ad shows tempting food; another the lifestyles of the rich and famous. One TV show just calls it for what it is: “American Greed.” All of it stirs discontent. Recently, the LORD spoke to me:

Not that I [Paul] speak in respect of want: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me...Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account...But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4: 11-13, 17, 19, 20.

Paul was writing from prison. People cared about him but lacked opportunity for giving. He says he had learned to be content. Contentment is God’s answer to the lust of greed. It can make the poorest among us rich, while discontent can make the richest among us poor. Contentment is about attitude and about holding to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ and to sound, healthy, correct doctrine which is according to godliness. More from the LORD:

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof comes envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness; from such withdraw yourself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction

and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness... Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded; nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 1 Timothy 6:3-11, 17-19.

Did you see it? It's not money that is evil, but the love of money. Love money and you stray from the faith and get pierced through with many sorrows. Pride and high-mindedness get in there, and don't think that's just for millionaires +. Low-income people can be proud and high-minded, too; their desire for money so great that nothing is ever enough. More of what I believe I received from the LORD for His people:

Cease striving with Me, murmuring, and complaining; but come with thankful hearts for who I am.

I am on your side.

I am for you.

I am faithful to keep Covenant with you.

I am the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

I am He who supplies and cares for you.

Be content in what you have; what I have given you. Godliness with contentment is great gain. Do not think that godliness is a means to financial gain. Change your focus by pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.

Hebrews 13:5 tells us: Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

So often we look to resources rather than to the Source of all Life and Blessing. We want the golden eggs so badly that we walk right by the goose that is laying the golden eggs.

God owns everything. Once I was going through a very stressful time. At such times I am drawn to the Ocean, to walk along the beach and reflect. The LORD impressed me with His providence and sovereignty. But then I heard a series of situations that basically went like this: *You're not into poverty, but you don't embrace wealth. You're not into sickness, but you don't embrace health. You're not into sin, but you don't embrace holiness.* True wealth is not about money; it's about fullness, and God is the Source of Satisfaction. He is the One who gives us a sense of our fullness in Christ.

Our attitudes affect our relationship with God. Being little ingrates, railing against God, putting Him to the proof, murmuring and complaining...none of that helps. It limits the Holy One of Israel. (Psalm 78)

With whatever we are given by God, the Source of our Destiny, we must learn to be content. Yes, it doesn't come naturally; it comes by the Holy Spirit working in us. Our little hearts are bent with iniquity and from very young we want "more!" **But God says to us, "You have Me; isn't that enough?"**

The secret is to rejoice in the LORD. Rejoice in who God is. Be thankful for any and every thing He gives you; and be faithful even in the least to steward what is God's.

“Those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.” (Psalm 34:10)

Expressing our gratefulness and trusting God through the ups and downs of our lives grows as we see the exceeding sinfulness of our sin that offends a holy God, who while we were yet enmity, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a life of perfect, personal, perpetual obedience and die to pay the debt note of that sin in our behalf. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was the proof that God the Father accepted what Christ did in behalf of His own. The believer is accepted IN the Beloved.

Look! A person could gain the whole world and lose his own soul. What will you give for your soul? There are things that no matter what, are there with every believer. We as believers can be grateful and give thanks to God and learn to be content on the roller coaster of life by making a few adjustments to our attitude and by changing our focus from what we want to what we have. Here's a few suggestions:

1. Remember the LORD your God, who He is, what He has given you, what He has done in your life...His faithfulness. For example, read Psalm 107 and write your own version based on your own life. Set aside resentment. Then thank and praise Him. God supplies according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. The question is, for what do we long?

Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with good things. Psalm 107:8, 9

2. Remember Jesus Christ crucified and risen, what He says in a Living Word, the Promise He brought to you. Thank Him for being sent by the Father to save, for being Surety of the Covenant in His Blood, Messiah, Sin-bearer, Curse-bearer, and Bearer of the wrath of God. Thank Him for abiding in you, hearing your heart's cry, knowing you, and caring for you. Thank Him for the Apostles who write their testimonies of the life of the faith to encourage and strengthen you. Believe in Jesus. Believe Jesus. Believe what Jesus believes. Lay hold on eternal life.

3. Remember to thank God in every circumstance, good, bad, and indifferent, whether He sends you through the jungles of Venezuela and Brazil, through the dust of Africa, through the turmoil of war, through cities of plenty but devoid of His Gospel, or through the everyday events of broken water pipes, and of too much or not enough. Be satisfied with all God has for you in Jesus Christ. Rejoice in the LORD your God.

The LORD spoke to me:

I am He who gives life. How do you define life? How do I? Therein you will discover the answers you seek.

The secret to living is love. The secret to contentment is being thankful for what we have. Let us learn to be content so that we don't push love away; not with God, not with others. Let us rejoice in the LORD. Let us glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

Giving God our best means giving graciously, gladly, generously, and as He guides. We appreciate your donations and gifts to MCM. They enable us to take the gospel of Jesus Christ

around the world and across backyard fences. Thank you for your God-given gifts, prayers, and financial support.

Just the Messenger,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

*The fear of the LORD tends to life:
and the one that has it shall abide satisfied;
he shall not be visited with evil. Proverbs 19:23*

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