

Unsatisfied

Source Article: The Three Sins Behind Your Discontentment

Author: Pastor Colin Smith

[https://openthebible.org/article/the-three-sins-behind-your-discontent/#:~:text=Discontent%20is%20a%20hellish%20sin%20because%2C%20at%20its%20heart%2C%20it,\(Romans%209%3A20\).](https://openthebible.org/article/the-three-sins-behind-your-discontent/#:~:text=Discontent%20is%20a%20hellish%20sin%20because%2C%20at%20its%20heart%2C%20it,(Romans%209%3A20).)

The article link above notes that discontentment is a manifestation of pride, an expression of rebellion, and a fruit of unbelief. Some quotes from the article:

Some Quotes from the article:

- *Hell is a place of perpetual discontent. People in hell are always angry and never at peace, always frustrated and never satisfied. That is surely the significance of our Lord's words about "gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30).*
- *Discontent is a manifestation of pride. It flows from a heart that says, "I deserve better than God has given me." This was the original sin of Satan himself.*
- *Pride led some angels to say, "We deserve better than God has given to us!" God gave them positions of authority, but they were not content. They are not content now. They never will be. Thomas Boston says, "The devil is the proudest creature and the most discontented because pride and discontent lodge under one roof."*

The next quote is a statement of contentment in God:

Alan Redpath says,

There is nothing—no circumstance, no trouble, no testing—that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment. I refuse to panic. And as I lift up my eyes to him...no circumstance will cause me to fret, for I shall rest in the joy of what my Lord is—that is the rest of victory!

All Scriptures below are NIV unless otherwise noted.

Jude 6 - And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 16 - These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. (NLT says grumblers and complainers).

Revelation 9:11 - Their king is the angel from the **bottomless pit**; his name in Hebrew is *Abaddon*, and in Greek, *Apollyon*—the Destroyer. (NLT)

NIV calls the bottomless pit the Abyss. A bottomless pit is a symbol of discontentment. The Devil is looking to pull as many people as possible into the Abyss but will never be satisfied.

Proverbs 27:20 - Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.

The whole book of Ecclesiastes is about contentment in God. King Solomon, the richest and wisest man to ever live, noted all he gained was vanity (Hebrew word "hevel" which means like a vapor or smoke). He doesn't say success is bad, but recognizes its true worth compared to God. (see Eccl 2:1-10)

1 Thess 5:18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

One scripture that is often taken out of context is Philippians 4:13 which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Let's look at the context:

Philippians 4:10-13 - ¹⁰I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, **for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.** ¹²**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.** ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Here Paul is saying he has learned to be content in all circumstances. He can do this by the strength given to him from Christ. People often use Philippians 4:13 as a reason to pursue selfish ambitions believing if they pray hard enough, God will give them strength to do it. Instead, the scripture is saying, be content with whatever God gives you and He gives you the strength to be content. To paraphrase what rapper Ambassador said, instead of going after things you can't have, get all you can have.

Another scripture that is often taken out of context for selfish ambition:

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us,**

What is the power working within us:

Ephesians 1:18-20 - ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. **That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,**

In both Ephesians 3:20 and Ephesians 1:19-20, Paul's prayer is that we can grasp just how powerful God is. That power works within us. But does it work within us to pursue what we want, or what God wants?

Psalms 37:4 says, "Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." If we take our delight in the Lord, then our desires will be for the things that please Him. Thus, our own selfish ambitions will take a back seat. What Paul is trying to show is that when we trust God he can do exceedingly and abundantly above what we could ask or think so that it's no question who gets the glory. To accomplish God's will, Jesus made it clear:

John 15:5 - ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**"

I honestly believe that many things we hope for won't come until we learn how to be content with what we have.

Luke 16:10-12 - ¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Genesis 3 – Adam and Eve were unsatisfied with what God gave them and went after the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

If we become discontented with God and run to other gods, eventually we will realize that God was indeed good enough. The parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-31) is a story of a son who was discontented with his life and wanted his inheritance. He took his inheritance to pursue what he thought he wanted only to lose everything and realize that life with his Father was good enough. His Father welcomed him back without hesitation. So will God do for us if we get lost. The parable before the prodigal son is that of the lost sheep. The shepherd will leave the ninety-nine to go get the one lost sheep. God loves us that much, that even if we wander away from Him, when we call out to Him, He will come to our rescue.

Notes Author: Sterling Porter