

Contentment Attitudes:

- Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:1 Meditate on what is true, noble, just, pure... Think about the successes of faith, not the failures of behavior.
- Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all men
- Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 6:18 – 19, 10:14 Avoid bad stuff
- Philippians 2:4, Romans 15:2 Focus on the needs of others

Not knowing a promise creates a weakness in faith that may cause collapse when stressed.

Increase contentment through singing

- Romans 15:9 (Psalm 18:49) I will sing to your name (the essence of God's personality)
- 1 Corinthians 14:15 Sing with the Spirit and understanding
- Ephesians 5:18 – 21 Enthusiastic, varied, heartfelt, thankful...
- Colossians 3:16 Teaching and admonishing with grace
- Hebrews 2:12 Jesus sang to us about the essential nature of God
- James 5:13 The natural result of cheerfulness

Attendance increases contentment

- Hebrews 10:24 – 25
 - Consider the others
 - Stir up love and good deeds
 - Exhort
- 1 Corinthians 14
 - v3 Edify, exhort, comfort
 - v26 Let all things be done for edification
- Romans 14:19 Edify one another
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – 18 Comfort one another with words about Jesus' return.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Encourage and edify
- Hebrews 3:13 Encourage day by day

Sharing increases contentment

2 Corinthians 8 – 9

- 8:4 Fellowship of service
- 8:5 Gave themselves to the Lord
- 8:7 A package of attributes
- 8:14 Sharing, not giving
- 9:2, 9:12 – 14 Motivates others
- 9:6, 9:10 – 11 Sharing is an exercise in faith

The Lord's Supper increases contentment

- Remembering Jesus. (1 Corinthians 11:24 – 25)
- Fellowship. (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- Unity. (1 Corinthians 10:17)
- Participation in Jesus' sacrifice (1 Corinthians 10:10, 5:7, Hebrews 10:10 – 14)
- Singleness of purpose. (1 Corinthians 10:21)
- Proclamation of His return. (1 Corinthians 11:26)
- Self-examination. (1 Corinthians 11:28)
- The body of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 11:24) In John 6:31 – 58. Jesus compares Himself to manna that maintains the spirit rather than the body.

The Lord's Supper increases contentment

- Remembrance of Passover: Release from Slavery, Affliction, and Haste. (Exodus 12:27, 13:8; Deuteronomy 16:3)
- The blood of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 11:25) "This cup is the new covenant in My blood." (Matthew 26:28) "...which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Both forgiveness and the seal of a contract are illustrated. Jesus' image of drinking His blood (John 6:31 – 58) represents taking the character of Jesus into ourselves.

The Lord's Supper increases contentment

- Unleavened Bread of Sincerity and Truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7 – 8).
- Sprinkled Blood. (Hebrews 9:11 – 10:22) Jesus' blood is compared to the blood sprinkled in the Mosaic rituals of dedication and purification, by which our consciences are cleansed.

Praying increases contentment

- The role of the Spirit (Romans 8:26 – 27, 1 John 5:14, Jude 20)
 - Brings our prayers up to God's standards
 - Modifies our prayer to conform to God's will
 - Praying in the Holy Spirit
- Attitudes of prayer (Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 3:12, 1 John 5:15, Philippians 4:7): boldly, confidently, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him
- The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds

Teaching and being taught increase contentment

- Acts 17:11 These were more noble...searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things were true.
- 2 Corinthians 4:13 I believed, therefore I spoke
- Colossians 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
- 2 Timothy 2:15 Rightly dividing the Word of truth
- 2 Timothy 2:23 – 26 The Lord's bondservant ... must be able to teach ... in humility correcting those in opposition
- 1 Peter 2:2 Long for the pure milk of the Word

Review: practices that lead to contentment

- Singing: Romans 15:9 (2 Samuel 22:50) I will give thanks to you among the Gentiles and sing praises to Your name.
- Attendance: 2 Corinthians 14:26 Let all things be done for edification
- Sharing: 2 Corinthians 8:7 Abound in everything – faith, speech, knowledge, diligence, love – see that you abound in this grace [sharing] also.
- Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:30 For this reason, many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.
- Praying: 1 John 5:15 If we know that He hears us, whatever we ask,...
- Teaching: Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly