

# Ambition balanced with Contentment

**Philippians 3:13-14; 4:11-13**

*Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 3:13-14**

*I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. **Philippians 4:11-12***

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:13***

*The man who fears God will avoid all extremes. **Ecclesiastes 7:18***

## Extremes to be avoided to gain stability in our lives.

### 1. Ambition without contentment leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

*Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. **1 Chronicles 4:10***

*Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.*

**Proverbs 6:6-8**

### 2. Ambition out of control can make life \_\_\_\_\_.

*Extremes to be avoided to gain stability in our lives.*

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **Psalms 118:24***

## Ambition out of control

1. Constant \_\_\_\_\_

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—* **Philippians 2:14-16**

2. Inverted \_\_\_\_\_

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* **Matthew 6:33**

3. Bitter \_\_\_\_\_

*But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.* **James 3:14-15**

*For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.* **James 3:16**

### **3. Contentedness without ambition leads to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Extremes to be avoided to gain stability in our lives.*

*The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.*  
**Proverbs 19:23**

*Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”* **Luke 3:14**

*If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks.*  
**Ecclesiastes 10:18**

***There is a difference between contentedness and laziness***

*A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.*  
**Proverbs 20:4**

*Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.* **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**

### **4. Contentment balanced with a holy \_\_\_\_\_ leads to Godliness.** *Extremes to be avoided to gain stability in our lives.*

*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* **Philippians 4:12**

**Contentment is a learned experience. It is not an instantaneous \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* **Matthew 11:29**

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.* **1 Timothy 6:6**

**Godly contentment is a state of mind, not a condition of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.* **Ecclesiastes 5:12**

**Godly contentment is the result of an allegiance to Christ,**

**not indulgence of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless—a miserable business!* **Ecclesiastes 4:8**

## **When you are restless or discontented**

1. Evaluate your effort

*The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.* **Proverbs 13:4**

2. Count your \_\_\_\_\_

3. Quit \_\_\_\_\_

4. Reaffirm your \_\_\_\_\_

*Key: restlessness, miserable, complaining, priorities, envy, laziness, ambition, gift, body, blessings, comparing, allegiance*