



<b>DATE</b>	September 9, 2018
<b>SPEAKER</b>	Jared Petty
<b>TITLE</b>	The Secret of Being Content
<b>SERIES</b>	The Bible has a lot to say to each of us. Different verses speak to us at different times, but often, there are a few highlighted verses we keep coming back to. Let's hear from our pastors about the verses they live by and why they're so meaningful.

This week, Jared walks us through what the Bible tells us about contentment. Philippians 4: 12-13 reads, *"I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who gives me strength."* Let's explore that, as well as the traps of discontent and how we must choose contentment through God's peace and our service to others.

### **What is the secret of being content?**

- In Ecclesiastes 1: 17, King Solomon experiences lead him to an evident conclusion. *"I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind."*
- Does it seem hard to believe that Solomon or others who clearly "have it all" can suffer from a lack of contentment or meaning? Why do we always think we personally would surely be able to handle great success and be content?
- Why is it so hard to replace worldly values like wealth, pleasure and success with values like peace, joy, love and knowing God? Do you agree that worldly values are most often pursued directly and while contentment and joy come to us indirectly, through other pursuits?
- How much have you been focusing on what you need and not what you want? How is God meeting your needs right now?

### **Discontentment...**

- Jared quoted Blaise Pascal, *"There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus."*
- When we compare ourselves to others, we erode relationships. This line of thought paralyzes us from moving forward. Have you seen how comparisons to others affect personal relationships in families, neighborhoods and church?
- How often do you compare yourself to others?
- Why do comparisons to others come so naturally? Is it because most of the comparisons we notice and talk about are directly observable? How do comparisons make us feel both good and bad?
- What steps can you take in your life to avoid discontentment?

### **Choose Contentment**

- We must keep our eyes on the eternal prize and focus on the things that truly matter. It's when we serve others that we find true contentment.

- Reflect on the photos from the Guatemala trip - by serving together, the missionaries found contentment in community.
- In what way do most people miss the secret of being content? What secret to being content have you learned?
- Why is it so important to elevate our thinking and actions to achieve contentment? What are the best ways to help others, know God or find joy that you have used to gain more contentment?

Be intentional this week about choosing contentment. We all know that even small gestures to help people can have greater impact than we think. Allow God's peace to guard your heart and mind and bestow that grace on others.