

**MAKING LIFE
WORK**

REAL SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

PART 11: THE CURE FOR COMPARISON

PROVERBS
 IS A PROACTIVE BOOK
 DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE
 THE READER TO LIVE IN
 HARMONY WITH THE
 GENERAL GOD-GIVEN *ORDER.*

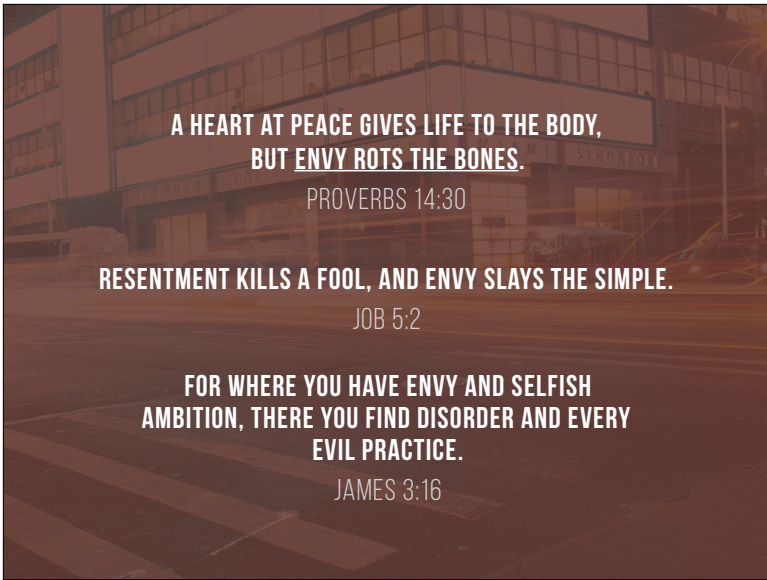
THE TEST

Pay attention to the conversations with yourself when you see others succeed in areas where you are struggling.



“Instant gratification lures us into taking ethical shortcuts that can ruin a business, a reputation, or even a life.”

AUGUST TURAK



**A HEART AT PEACE GIVES LIFE TO THE BODY,
BUT ENVY ROTS THE BONES.**

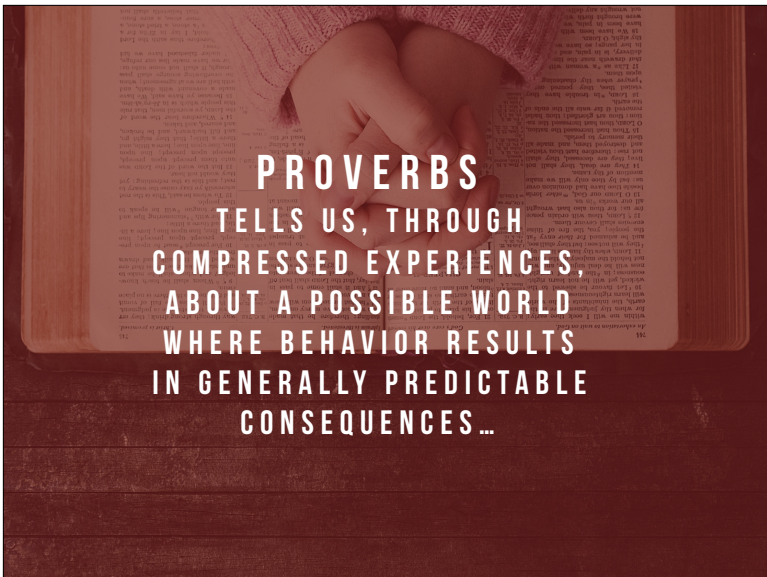
PROVERBS 14:30

RESENTMENT KILLS A FOOL, AND ENVY SLAYS THE SIMPLE.

JOB 5:2

**FOR WHERE YOU HAVE ENVY AND SELFISH
AMBITION, THERE YOU FIND DISORDER AND EVERY
EVIL PRACTICE.**

JAMES 3:16



**PROVERBS
TELLS US, THROUGH
COMPRESSED EXPERIENCES,
ABOUT A POSSIBLE WORLD
WHERE BEHAVIOR RESULTS
IN GENERALLY PREDICTABLE
CONSEQUENCES...**

THE TEACHER IN ECCLESIASTES
SITS DOWN, LOOKS AT THE PATTERNS
OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND DECIDES:

Sin is *always* at the end
of comparison.

BOTTOM LINE:
WISDOM KNOWS THAT SIN
IS *always* AT THE END OF
COMPARISON.

AND THE CURE FOR COMPARISON IS:
CONTENTMENT

Contentment is:
Somehow having peace on the inside even when
everything on the outside is going crazy or is unequal.

CONTENTMENT IS

a **LEARNED SKILL**
that we use to build a
God-honoring life.

**BETTER A LITTLE WITH THE FEAR OF THE LORD
THAN GREAT WEALTH WITH TURMOIL.**

PROVERBS 15:16

**BETTER A LITTLE WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS THAN MUCH
GAIN WITH INJUSTICE.**

PROVERBS 16:8

**BETTER THE POOR WHOSE WALK IS BLAMELESS THAN
THE RICH WHOSE WAYS ARE PERVERSE.**

PROVERBS 28:6

**THE INABILITY TO
FIND CONTENTMENT
COMES FROM FALLING
INTO THE *trap* OF
COMPARISON.**

WHEN WE TRY TO FIND CONTENTMENT THROUGH:

**the benefits of
our career**

**YET WHEN I SURVEYED ALL THAT MY HANDS HAD DONE AND
WHAT I HAD TOILED TO ACHIEVE,
EVERYTHING WAS MEANINGLESS, A CHASING AFTER THE WIND;
NOTHING WAS GAINED UNDER THE SUN.**

ECCLESIASTES 2:11

WHEN WE TRY TO FIND CONTENTMENT THROUGH:

wealth

GOD GIVES SOME PEOPLE WEALTH, POSSESSIONS AND HONOR, SO THAT THEY LACK NOTHING THEIR HEARTS DESIRE, BUT GOD DOES NOT GRANT THEM THE ABILITY TO ENJOY THEM, AND STRANGERS ENJOY THEM INSTEAD. THIS IS MEANINGLESS, A GRIEVOUS EVIL.

ECCLESIASTES 6:2

WHEN WE TRY TO FIND CONTENTMENT THROUGH:

prestige

THERE WAS NO END TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BEFORE THEM. BUT THOSE WHO CAME LATER WERE NOT PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESSOR. THIS TOO IS MEANINGLESS, A CHASING AFTER THE WIND.

ECCLESIASTES 4:16

WHEN WE TRY TO FIND CONTENTMENT THROUGH:

the "good life"

FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT IS GOOD FOR A PERSON IN LIFE, DURING THE FEW AND MEANINGLESS DAYS THEY PASS THROUGH LIKE A SHADOW? WHO CAN TELL THEM WHAT WILL HAPPEN UNDER THE SUN AFTER THEY ARE GONE?

ECCLESIASTES 6:12

WHEN WE TRY TO FIND CONTENTMENT THROUGH:

the attainment of wisdom itself

THEN I SAID TO MYSELF, "THE FATE OF THE FOOL WILL
OVERTAKE ME ALSO. WHAT THEN DO I GAIN BY BEING WISE?
I SAID TO MYSELF, "THIS TOO IS MEANINGLESS."

ECCLESIASTES 2:15

LIFE LIVED
with a view only
of this world
IS MEANINGLESS.

"AND I SAW THAT ALL TOIL AND ALL ACHIEVEMENT
SPRING FROM ONE PERSON'S ENVY OF ANOTHER. THIS
TOO IS MEANINGLESS, A CHASING AFTER THE WIND."

ECCLESIASTES 4:4

THE **SECRET** TO
CONTENTMENT BEGINS
WITH REALIZING THAT
SIN IS *always* AT THE
END OF COMPARISON.

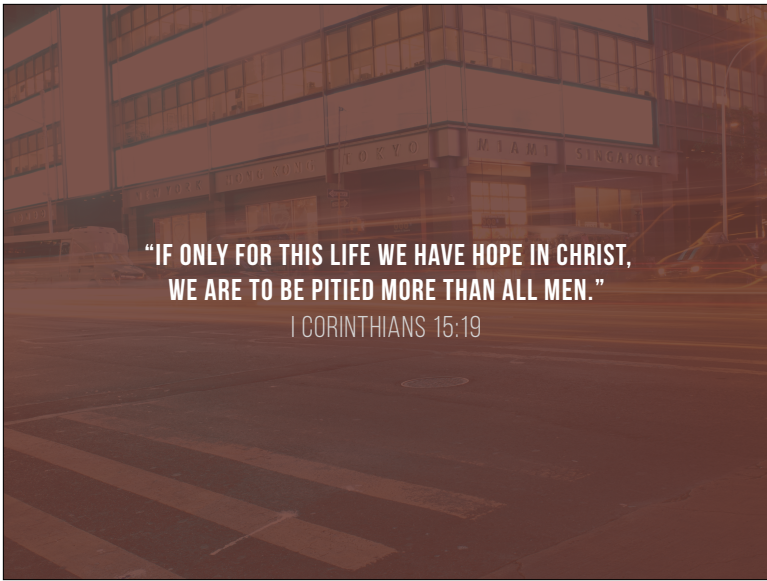


FOOLS FOLD THEIR HANDS AND RUIN THEMSELVES.
ECCLESIASTES 4:5

SOLOMON'S
WAY OF FLESHING OUT THE SOLUTION.



BETTER ONE HANDFUL WITH
TRANQUILITY THAN TWO HANDFULS WITH
TOIL AND CHASING AFTER THE WIND.
ECCLESIASTES 4:6



**"IF ONLY FOR THIS LIFE WE HAVE HOPE IN CHRIST,
WE ARE TO BE PITIED MORE THAN ALL MEN."**

I CORINTHIANS 15:19

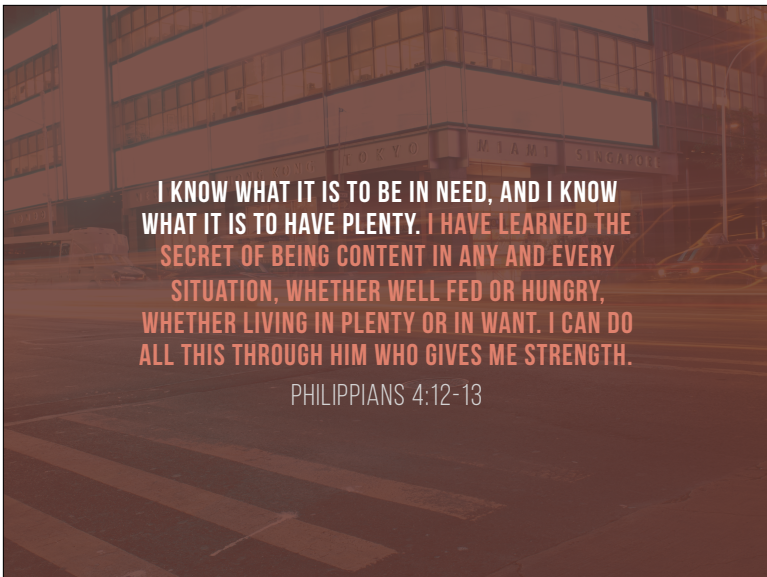


PAUL'S

RESPONSE

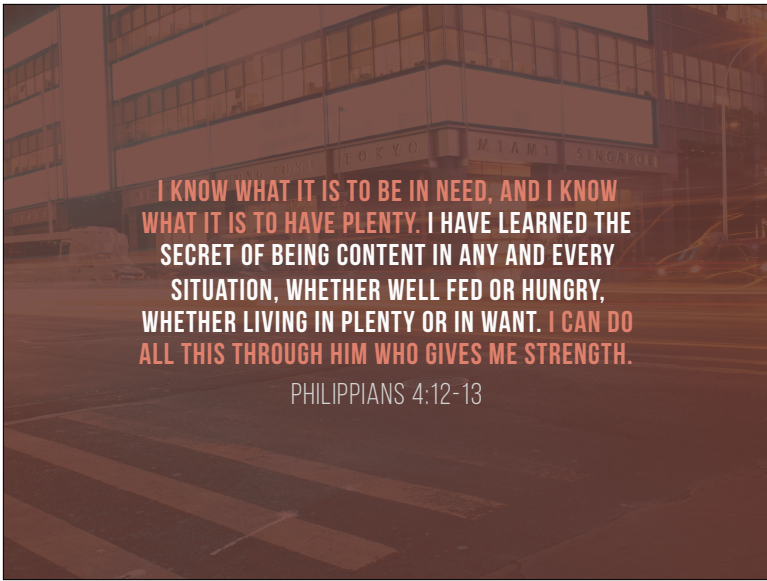


**Teach me what it
means to be content
in the midst of my
circumstances.**



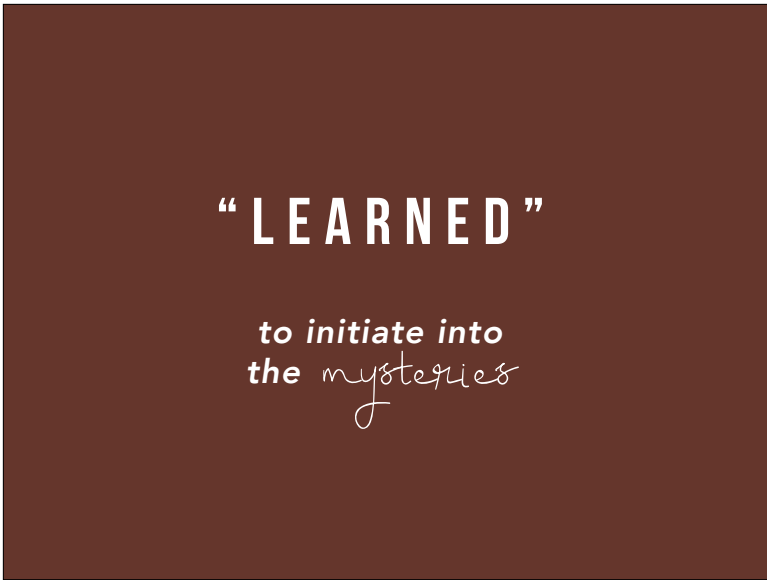
**I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE IN NEED, AND I KNOW
WHAT IT IS TO HAVE PLENTY. I HAVE LEARNED THE
SECRET OF BEING CONTENT IN ANY AND EVERY
SITUATION, WHETHER WELL FED OR HUNGRY,
WHETHER LIVING IN PLENTY OR IN WANT. I CAN DO
ALL THIS THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13



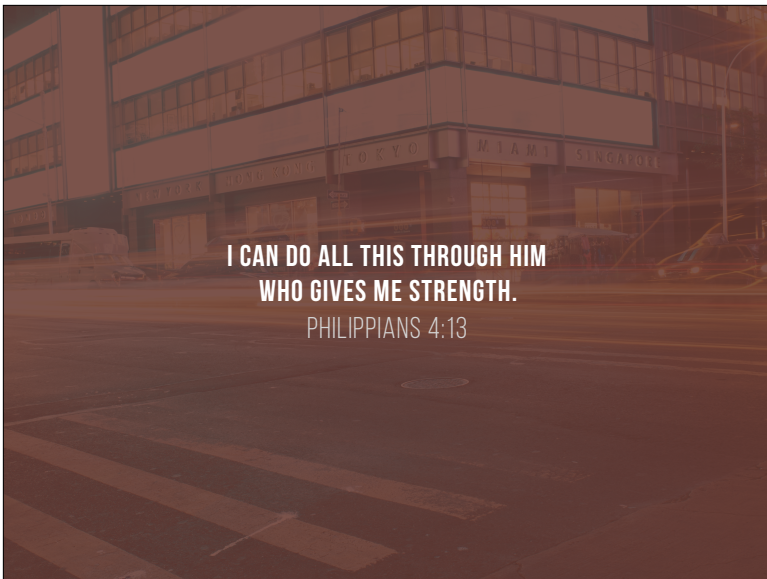
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PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13



“LEARNED”

*to initiate into
the mysteries*



I CAN DO ALL THIS THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



**BETTER ONE HANDFUL WITH TRANQUILITY THAN TWO
HANDFULS WITH TOIL AND CHASING AFTER THE WIND.**
ECCLESIASTES 4:6

