

ATTENTION!!

Contentment

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.” 1 Timothy 6:6-7

“As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:9

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”
1 Corinthians 11:1

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Fret Not

By Dan Jenkins

Sometimes in our walk with the Lord we struggle simply because we do not understand the adversity that comes into our lives. It is not that we are about to lose our faith or leave the Lord. It is because we are perplexed about what is happening at the moment. It is remarkable how that at times like this, even the smallest troubles can cause so much stress.

Evidently, David had such times in his life, and his words can help us deal with frustration. The opening paragraph of Psalm 37 begins with the words, “*Fret not.*” Eight verses later, David again tells us not to fret over matters. How do we deal with the complexity of our lives? Between the two “frets” David mentions four actions we should do which can really help us.

“Trust in the Lord and do good” (v. 3). One fundamental aspect of our character must be that we trust God. He knows! He sees! He cares! We become depressed and turn inward. These words of David point us in the other direction. Instead of pulling back and magnifying our problems, David reminds us to become active in our lives. The best cure for our frustrations is to look outward and, to use the words of Paul, “*As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith*” (Galatians 6:10).

“Delight yourself also in the Lord” (v. 4). Perhaps the cause of our frustration is that we have thought that true happiness comes from living a life without stress. A man once came to the Savior and was so troubled. Evidently his father had died and his own brother refused to share the inheritance. Think about these words of Jesus: “*One’s life does not consist in the abundance of the*

things he possesses” ((Luke 12:15) Yet, when we think that “things” are so important, we lose sight of the spiritual treasures and joy found in the Lord.

“Commit your way to the Lord” (v. 5). Remember Gethsemane. Jesus was so troubled with all that was happening, and He prayed to God. It is not wrong for us to pray even over the smallest matters. Yet, notice how Jesus ended His prayer. After asking God to remove that cup of suffering which lay before Him, the Lord said, *“Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done”* ((Luke 22:42) The fretfulness of stress is overwhelming when we think we know what is the best way for us.

“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him” (v. 7). Cast all your cares upon Him for He cares for you. Turn them over to God. Lay those burdens and patiently wait for Him. To paraphrase the words of Paul—do not be fretful about anything, but pray about everything and the peace of God will come to you to guide you (Philippians 4:6-7) Wait for Him.

Brethren, hear His words—“Fret not.”

The Cracked Pot



There is a story told about elderly Chinese woman who had two large pots which hung on opposite ends of a pole she carried across her neck. One pot had a crack in it; the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house. The cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. The cracked pot, however, was ashamed of its imperfection, and miserable as it was only able to accomplish half of what the perfect pot could. After two years of

its perceived failure, it spoke to the old woman one day as they were by the stream.

It said, “I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you.” “Why?” asked the old woman. “What are you ashamed of?” The pot replied, “I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side allows water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you must do all this work, and don't get full value from your efforts.”

The old woman felt sorry for the old, cracked pot, and in her compassion said, “As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path As they went up the hill, the cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful flowers on the path side and was cheered some. None the less, at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because, as always, it had leaked out half its load. It again apologized for its failure. The woman asked, “Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other side? That's because I have always known about your flaw and took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not have this beauty to grace this house.”

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. In this world, nothing goes to waste. You may think like the cracked pot that you are inefficient or useless in certain areas of your life, but somehow these flaws can turn out to be a blessing in disguise.”

Paul said, *“Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).