

Comparison

Don't compare yourself to others, instead choose to be content.

There are times when we find ourselves comparing what we have with what other people have. The reason we do is this is that we desire what someone else has. Whether it is physical appearance, possessions, or personality characteristics...what we are doing is playing the comparison game.

Nobody ever wins in the comparison game, because there is no end to it. In fact, sometimes people chase after something that is temporary and unfulfilling. It is momentary satisfaction – it doesn't last forever.

What we should do is strive for contentment. God has given every person exactly what they need. His ultimate desire is not for you to find blessings in the possessions you own, but instead what we have in Christ.

Paul is an excellent example of this...

"I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you revived your concern for me. You were, of course, concerned about me but lacked in opportunity. Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things, I have learned the secret of being well fed and going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:10-13

In this passage, we see the apostle Paul speaking to the Philippian church. Earlier in this letter, Paul expresses the value in knowing Christ, the joy of imitating Christ, and then we come to this part where Paul reminds us to be content in Christ. Paul doesn't talk about things he has, and he doesn't talk about the things he doesn't have. Instead, he tells us in every circumstance he has learned to be content.

There are times in your life where you have more than you need, and there may be times when you don't have the things you need. Regardless of your situation, you should find contentment in Christ. You might be tempted to compare what you have to others. When you find yourself comparing something you have to what someone else has, you are no longer content with the blessings God has given you. In fact, you are essentially saying, "God, why didn't you give me this. I need this. God, I think you got it wrong...I need these things."

So how do you fight off temptation to not compare yourself to others? Ask God to give you strength to overcome the desire to compare yourself to others.

Verse 13 is a very popular verse, "I can do all things through him who strengthen me."

You might see people using this as a slogan in the sports world, like from an athlete looking for the strength he needs during a big moment. Or maybe you have heard it from someone who is about to face a difficult task. However, this verse is talking about contentment. Being satisfied with the things you have or don't have. Christ is enough, and you don't need anything else.

**Are you living with this attitude?
Is Jesus enough, or do you tell yourself, "if I had this, I would be happy?"**

You don't have to live your life always trying to measure up to other people. God loves you and He thinks you're really great. Ask Him to help you find peace, joy, and contentment in knowing and trusting in Him.

Don't compare yourself to others, instead choose to be content.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. He's my rock and my salvation. And he's all I'll ever need. And though I may have problems and I may be weak, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Amen.