

*Do You Have an Attitude of Gratitude?
Turnpike Wesleyan Church – November 15, 2020*

Scripture Text: 1 Timothy 6:6-8, 17-19

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So, if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Key One: An attitude of gratitude creates contentment. However, many suffer from a disease some have called "**Affluenza**," the virus of prosperity and affluence.

Paul's life was filled with many difficulties, which he could complain about. How many of us would put up with constant stress, confusion, persecution, and beatings that left deep scars and permanent injuries, and still maintain a **positive** attitude?

He had learned the secret of not living life based on the conditions around him. He could be content in **prison** as well as at home. His happiness was not based on **situations**; it was based on his **relationship** with Christ. He knew he had all he needed in Christ, for it was Christ that gave him the strength for life.

God is saying to us: "Don't wait to be happy. Don't postpone happiness until your situation changes, or until you have acquired a certain thing. If you cannot be happy now you will not be happy then, for happiness is not a matter of what you have, or what situation you are in. It is a matter of who you are and how you **respond** to life. It is found in Christ, and unless Christ is on the inside, all the things in the world on the outside will not make a difference."

Jesus said, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). If we sought God the same way we seek after other things many of our **problems** would disappear. It is our relationship with God that is the source of contentment, and nothing else can take his place.

Key Two: An attitude of gratitude generates joy. Every year we jump the gun a little sooner celebrating the Christmas season. And here is why - Christmas starts us thinking of what we **don’t** have and what we want to **get**. Thanksgiving reminds us of what we **do** have and **Who** gave it to us. Thanksgiving takes our mind off our wants and focuses them on our blessings.

Comparisons breed **envious** thoughts, **jealous** hearts and **grudging** dispositions; they take the joy out of life.

Key Three: An attitude of gratitude stimulates sharing. The Bible says, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights” (James 1:7).

Wrap Up

Having an attitude of gratitude is an act of **faith**. It means you are **unafraid** to live and be happy because you have faith in a God who cares for you and provides for you. He is faithful and his promises are true. He never fails.