

# Gathering

## CONTENTMENT

**W**e live a world where people are constantly seeking “more”. We want more money, more beauty, more recognition and the list goes on. Before long, comparison becomes our measuring stick, and we end up feeling unsatisfied with the things we have. Our jobs, relationships and achievements aren’t enough anymore. So, we tell ourselves “*If I work a little harder and do whatever it takes, I’ll be one step closer in my pursuit for happiness.*”

Sooner or later, our attempts will prove futile and we’ll be faced with the reality that unless we clothe ourselves in an attitude of contentment, we will never be fully satisfied.

In Proverbs 30:8–9, the writer prays ‘*Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God*’

Contentment helps us to recognize with great appreciation, God’s present provisions for us, and encourages our trust in Him for the unseen ones to come. It unlocks the doors to happiness in our lives, by teaching us to love and cherish the gifts and blessings He constantly gives to us. When we do this, our contentment honors Him.

If we are intentional to be content, even when we don’t have much, we will trust God to provide for our needs. This trust, acknowledges and honors Him as our ultimate provider. In addition, when we do have in abundance, and we express contentment for it, it encourages us to share what we have with others. By doing so, we also bring honor to God.

After reading scripture, consider these questions.

- How would you explain the word contentment based on today’s passage?
- How can we honor God with our contentment?
- How can discontentment cause us to dishonor God?
- What are some practical ways in which we can encourage each other to grow in contentment?

*Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.*

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*and so dishonor the name of my God'*

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A person that lives with contentment, bringing honor to God, is a person that recognizes God's faithful provision. Is a person that lives by His truths; a person that gratefully receives of His abundant grace for each day. Study the verses below to further explore the concept of contentment and its relation to honoring God.



### 1) PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13 & 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8-9

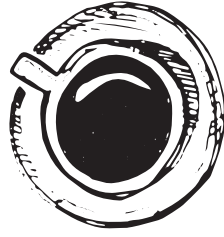
What insights do we gain from Paul's words in these verses regarding contentment?

### 2) HEBREWS 13:5

Besides provider, who does God become for us when we live contently?

### 3) MATTHEW 6:25-26

What is the relationship between trust and contentment?



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