



How Much is Enough?

After repeated annual visits with the same specialist, we had become friends. He's not quite my age... he's 62, to be exact. He surprised me a few weeks ago, "John, this will be my last consultation with you. I am retiring next month so we'll need to transfer your file over to one of the other doctors."

He told me that several of his colleagues had expressed puzzlement over his "early retirement," commenting that he still had plenty of income-producing years ahead. "But John," my doctor continued, "I asked myself, 'When is enough enough?' I'm not rich but I have adequate to support my family in my remaining years. I want to have more time with my family and I want to give myself in volunteer service in areas of need."

I most admired his simple statement, "I have enough. I want to refocus on *giving to others*."

"I have enough." That sounds like **contentment**, which should be one of the traits we bear, as Christians. One dictionary defines *contentment* as "the state of being mentally or emotionally satisfied with things as they are."

In our counseling, *DIScontentment* often seems to drive the arguments and disagreements among family members. Their situation isn't really that bad but "it just isn't good enough." That invites the focus to be on what the person does NOT have rather than on all that they DO have to enjoy. What does the Bible have to say about this?

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the 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 everything through Him who gives me strength. (Paul, writing in Philippians 4:11-13)

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

My conclusion? Contentment is a good and wonderful thing. It comes when we trust the Lord more than money or circumstances. With HIM, we **have enough!**

May we (as the gospel songs says) "count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!"

We are CONTENT in HIS care!

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)

P.S. At this Thanksgiving season, may I express our appreciation for you who continue to pray and to give sacrificially so that ALM can continue its ministry. You are one who demonstrates that eagerness to "give to others!"





THANKSGIVING rhyme time

As you celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family, consider inviting the whole gang... young and old... to put their "rhyming" skills to work. Read the following poem, asking guests to guess the underlined word at the end of each line. If needed, hints are provided in parentheses. May the message of this poem resonate in your hearts during this special season!

Thank You Lord for shelter... for a roof above my head.

Thank You too for rest and sleep in my warm and cozy bed.

My shelves are stocked; my fridge is full; there's water at the sink. (rhymes with *brink*)

You've kept my body fueled and strong with ample food and drink.

Every day I go to work and You see that I get paid. (rhymes with *stayed*)

My job's a gift from Your good hand, plus every cent I've made.

The splendor of the universe displays Your awesome power, (rhymes with *flower*)

And reminds me You are big enough to keep me every hour.

Hills and trees, fields and flowers, white clouds, skies of blue, (rhymes with *stew*)

Mountain peaks and ocean waves and every critter too...

You made them all for our delight... to bring us joy on earth. (rhymes with *mirth*)

And You give us a fresh miracle with every baby's birth!

My family's not perfect... of problems we've our share.

(rhymes with *care*)

But with Your help we've stuck it out in foul times and in fair.

I've said and done so many things which fill me with remorse.

(rhymes with *source*)

But each time You've forgiven and got me back on course.

So many times I've faltered, wond'ring what to do or say.

(rhymes with *pay*)

Then Your Word has given wisdom and lighted up my way.

I'm well aware this world's a mess with anger, sin and sorrows. (rhymes with *borrows*)

But You give strength to face each day and hope for bright tomorrows.

You lived a perfect human life... that was something I just couldn't. (rhymes with *shouldn't*)

And though time and time I failed, You never left me... You just wouldn't!

To think about the cross and all You suffered, makes me cry.

(rhymes with *tie*)

I cannot grasp such love that made You choose for me to die!

And now You're making ready a home for me forever.

(rhymes with *sever*)

I'll never comprehend why You should be so kind... no never!

To say that I am grateful Lord... those words just can't convey (rhymes with *delay*)

The depth of thanks that fills my heart on this Thanksgiving Day!

I pledge anew my love to You with all

who've gathered here. (rhymes with *near*)

And thank You once again dear Lord... for a blessed and bounteous year!



Sharon Charles

Do you know about the ExtraGive program?

Your donation on NOVEMBER 16, designated for ALM, will be forwarded to ALM with increase!

The Lancaster County Community Foundation is promoting giving to nonprofit organizations... ministries and organizations which serve residents in Lancaster County.

The Foundation has created a "Stretch Pool" of at least \$500,000 which will be distributed proportionally among the participating nonprofits.

Here's an illustration: If nonprofit ministry "XYZ" were to receive 1% of the total designated gifts on Nov. 16, THEN, that nonprofit "XYZ" would also receive 1% of the Stretch Pool, increasing the total amount received by the nonprofit. NICE!

The instructions are pretty simple:

1. On FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, go to the website ExtraGive.org.
2. Click on the SEARCH tab. Search for Abundant Living Ministries.
3. Contributions are by credit card. An email receipt, for tax purposes, will be provided by the ExtraGive program.
4. ExtraGive will forward your designated contribution plus an amount from the Stretch Pool, to ALM.

THE EXTRA GIVETM
ORDINARY

Contact Information

Address: 541 W. 28th Division Highway, Lititz, PA 17543
Email: info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org
Phone: (717) 626-9575

Website: www.AbundantLivingMinistries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/alm4u