(36) Live, **Give**, Grow, Go GIVE: The Secret of Contentment

**Video Testimony of the Johnstons**

*Four Spiritual Principles of Giving (October 8-29)*

1. We are Stewards NOT Owners
2. Only What is Given Away Can Multiply
3. ***The Secret of Contentment***

Satan’s Accusation

**Job 1:8-11 8**Then the Lord asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”**9**Satan replied to the Lord, “**Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. 10You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! 11But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!”**

* Have you ever wondered how you’d fare in such an arrangement?
* The question Satan raises is a legitimate one…
* Have you ever been really tested?

**Matthew 6:25, 30-34 25“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life…**You of little faith! **31**Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ **32**For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.** Each day has enough trouble of its own.

* To be sure, I have been anxious and worried about many, many circumstances in my life…
  + But it’s hard to suggest with honesty that I know what its like to worry about eating, or drinking, or having clothes…
  + I’ve come to realize that I (we) find ourselves in a particularly dangerous situation – one that Scripture has warned us of in multiple ways…

**Deuteronomy 8:10-14** When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.**11“But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands,** regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. **12**For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, **13**and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful!**14**Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God…

**We Are, To Say the Least, At a Great Disadvantage in Understanding and/or Living in Contentment**

**“Manna for the Day”**

**Exodus 16:3-5, 11-12**

“If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.” **4**Then the Lord said to Moses, “Look, I’m going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. **5**On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual.”

**11**Then the Lord said to Moses, **12**“I have heard the Israelites’ complaints. Now tell them, ‘In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

* Gathered more than they were supposed to…
* Gathered on the Sabbath when they weren’t supposed to…
* Kept overnight which they weren’t supposed to…
* Complaining never stopped…

1. **To Humble You**

**Deuteronomy 8:2,17-18**

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, **humbling you and testing you to prove your character…He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful…**

1. **To Teach You Obedience**

**Deuteronomy 8:2…and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands…**

1. **To Teach You Life is Solely Determined by God and His Decrees**

**Deuteronomy 8:3**

Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. **He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

**Contentment is Believing & Depending on God Fully and Completely**

**(Not Money or Wealth)**

**Philippians 4:11-13**

**I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.12**I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **13For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.**

**Contentment Opens the Door to A Life of Extravagant Giving**

* **We think that Wealth or the Accumulation of Things is What Enables Us to Lead a Life of Extravagant GIving…**
  + “If I had this, then I could Give”…This is part of the “Deception of Wealth”…
* **But Extravagant Giving Doesn’t Flow From What We Have…**
  + It Flows From What We Believe – Or Rather, In Whom We Believe