



Neighborhoods to Nations

The New Testament Church Newsletter

Contentment; Forged by God through Trial

"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; every where and I all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and suffer need."
- Philippians 4:11-12

Contentment

To be content is to be "sufficient" or "satisfied" with what you have. Our sufficiency is in Christ, and thus contentment is to be grateful regardless of our circumstances. This is no easy task and impossible to achieve on our own.

I have learned...

As the Apostle says in these simple verses, contentment is something he learned. It did not come automatically. It did not come immediately. It also did not come without a price.

I know how to be abased

Cultivating gratefulness when we are not in a state of plenty or things are not going well is a challenge all of us face daily.

It is important to keep things in perspective. Our problems, when compared to most throughout the world, are a bit smaller than we have been led to believe. Though large in our eyes, we tend to magnify our situation which decreases our joy.

Why does God allow trials and problems in our lives? Sometimes it takes obstacles for us to see our shortcoming and also to realize that we have become absorbed too much with ourselves.

We are not as important as we think we are. Our ministries and gifts are not as dynamic as we imagine, and thus humility is God's goal.

I know how to abound

We must also know how to abound in joy. As Psalm 30:5 declares, "*Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.*" When things are going right, and answers to our prayers are obvious, joy is handled by us in submission to God rather than elevating of self.

To gloat when we abound is to ask God for the trial necessary to bring our ego under control. To demean those in a valley means we have not learned to be content. Handling abundance means we constantly thank God rather than focus on that which we have and crediting ourselves in some way.

Contentment is a deep rest in God through Christ that indicates the fruit of longsuffering and when joy comes, we lift others up!

The Goal of Conversion: Submitting to Christ's Lordship

When we share the gospel, we must be careful not to promise what God never promised. As indicated above, He did not promise we would always abound, nor did He promise we would always be abased or down-trodden with trials.

Times of joy and times of sorrow are seasons in life, and God uses them for His purposes. The main goal of conversion is to crown Christ as lord!

When sharing the gospel:

- *Keep the focus on Christ, and what He has accomplished;*

- *Share the truth of repentance from sin and surrendering to Christ;*

- *Center on the fact that the Holy Spirit will regenerate the spirit;*

- *Relate that the difference with Christ is how we handle the trials of life, not promising He will keep us from these trials.*

We should all be able to share our own experience of coming to Christ in less than three minutes so that another individual can understand that it is the inner life that immediately changes through time.

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Highlights for Intercession

- *Lord, help us to learn contentment through the various trials we experience from day to day.*
- *Lord, help us to share the gospel with clarity, focus and truth.*
- *Help us to faithfully portray who you are as we honestly share our struggles as well*

Christian Education: *A Biblical Worldview of Contentment*



Our youth (in church and school) recently ministered to the body through a skit about people needing the Lord!



Prayer, both private as well as corporate, is the life blood of the church. Consider joining a small prayer group and commit to meet together at joint prayer meetings with other believers!



Dan and Misty Davey

The unique nature of a Biblical worldview as it is applied to home and school discipleship of our young people is that it focuses on:

- *Priorities:* God is sovereign and learning every academic discipline from His perspective is very inspiring!
- *Responsibilities:* Understanding which institution (home, business, church or state) is responsible to solve a problem is critical in order to think and act strategically.
- *Opportunities:* Taking the initiative to solve a problem in one's home, neighborhood or town is an opportunity we must not waste when training our children how to serve effectively;

And finally, as it relates to contentment...

- *Perspectives:* Having our children aware of what is going on in other nations and in other neighborhoods is critical so that they do not see life from a skewed or selfish perspective. Only then can we hope to build their spiritual lives for a life of contentment!

PRAYER FOR CONTENTMENT IN THIS SEASON

As we continue to go through a season of loving pressure by our Heavenly Father, we call upon each of us to pray fervently for one another!

When God nudges your heart, spend time in prayer for one another and use every opportunity for hospitality and speaking a word of encouragement to one another.

Consider participating in prayer before service, at the ladies prayer on Friday mornings, and with the men at their breakfast meetings.

As we pray individually and corporately let us focus on some of the following areas:

1 - that each of us would be focused on what God is revealing in our lives;

2 - that each one in our church be encouraged to release words of kindness and encouragement to others;

3 - that we would be consistent in fellowship and availing ourselves of all the opportunities we have of gathering together, including the joint prayer meetings with other churches!

INTRODUCING... *Dan and Misty Davey*

Dan and Misty Davey have recently been living in Hamilton, MA close to Gordon-Conwell where Dan recently received a Master of Arts in Religion.

Dan has a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and a Master of Arts in Leadership and Assimilation. He is also ordained in two

denominations (Church of God and the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference - CCCC).

Misty's background is in Youth with a Mission where she has traveled the world and ministered in a variety of situations including a time in Israel. Her gifts are in prayer, evangelism as well as encouraging women.

Dan will be serving as an Assistant to Pastor Jehle as well as creatively focusing on developing home groups, evangelism strategies, and restoring our Bible Institute.

They both desire to get to know everyone in our church through hospitality and personal relationships! *We look forward to getting to know them as well!*

SMALL GROUP CORNER: *Small Group Ministry*

Spontaneous Small Groups

Pockets of believers from within our church meet as they are led by God to do so. Let us pray that in the near future strategic groups form!

Strategic Prayer

Prayer groups continue: women on Friday mornings at Carol Soucy's, once a month prayer on Cape Cod on Wednesdays and once a month Sunday night prayer on the South Shore under the Glory of God banner!

Adult Fellowship / Family

Periodically there are adult and family fellowships after church - on Sundays when available (check the bulletin)

Men's Groups

Men's Night Out (with Chuck Chiaramonte coordinating - the next one is on January 10) and a men and son's study group on *No More Excuses* at breakfast meetings (next Nov. 2) at Chuck Lindberg's home.

Youth Group:

Arise Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday nights of the month at 6:30 PM with the Thompson's and Ben Harris leading.

New Study:

On December 4, 11, 18 and 24 (the last being Christmas Eve) we will have midweek services focusing on *Because of Bethlehem*, a 15 minute video by Max Lucado followed by prayer and discussion.



Small Group Ministry is an important part of the discipleship process within our church. We have several groups which may expand in the fall!

Seriously consider attending a group that will edify you in your walk with the Lord!

America's Hometown Thanksgiving

Over 20 years ago we would not have believed that this community service event would have grown this large! Reports of crowds topping 150,000 have been given for this event!

Our church has been involved in serving the town by working with this event, under the direction of Elder

Olly deMacedo, for decades now. From adults and youth doing set-up, clean-up, and all other kinds of volunteer work, to many diligently doing construction for the floats that are works of art!

This year the focus will be on the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing, the 75th anniversary of D-day, and

the 150th anniversary of the "Golden Spike" uniting of the East and West railroads in Utah, among other features and themes as well.



Get involved and serve!

November 22-24 marks this year's America's Hometown Thanksgiving Event!

A Celtic Christmas at TNT! *December 10, 2019 at 7 PM!*

On Tuesday, December 10th the New Testament Church will be hosting a free Celtic Christmas Concert Featuring The Sky Family!

The Sky Family performs their own particular blend of fast-paced Celtic music and Irish dance around the country and Canada, as well as

hosting their own half hour radio program weekly on radio stations covering the northeast.

The SKY Family's production Celtic Revival! brings world-class Irish dance to lively Celtic/pop-rock music and songs rich in harmonies. Woven throughout

are humorous stories and inspirational testimonies. Each member performs on several instruments and all contribute to the rich vocal harmonies and dance.

The program is engaging for the whole family. A love offering will be taken.



The Sky Family will perform a Celtic Christmas Concert - fun for the whole family - Tuesday, December 10th at TNT.

*Preaching Christ from
Neighborhoods to
Nations*

The New Testament
Church Newsletter

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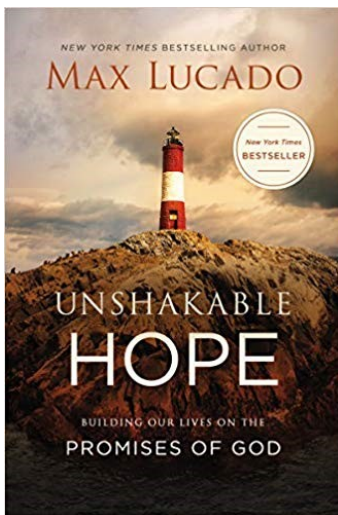
CHURCH WEB SITE:
TNTCHURCH.NET

Our Mission

The members of The New Testament Church wish to fulfill the call of God upon Plymouth and its geographic area in restoring the light of the gospel to impact every area of life. We desire to bless our neighborhoods locally and the specific nations of the world as God directs by performing the works of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit.

Our Vision

The calling of the Church of Jesus Christ is to be the agency through which God shows the world His manifold wisdom. We at The New Testament Church desire to be part of the bride that Father God can present to the Son while at the same time being a glorious temple built of living stones. We want to bring the seamless, all encompassing, life-changing message of Jesus Christ to others, discipling those who respond "to love the Lord with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind... and to love their neighbor as themselves."



Unshakable Hope
by Max Lucado

Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2018

Available on-line

BOOK REVIEW

By Paul Jehle

Charlene and I have recently been reading through *Unshakable Hope*, by Max Lucado, published in 2018.

Max Lucado is a gifted literary writer and almost every chapter has home spun stories that draw you in and illustrate the Biblical promises God has given us.

Often today when we think of promises, they involve personal gain, prosperity, or some other "thing" we think God owes us. But Max goes much deeper and closer to the heart of Scripture and God's promises than mere external blessings.

Here are some reasons why I believe this book could be a blessing to the members and attenders of The New Testament Church family.

- 1) Each promise highlighted in these chapters is clearly rooted in fundamental truths of Scripture that relate first to our spiritual walk
- 2) It is an excellent book to read aloud between husband and wife, small groups, or with children
- 3) The truths illustrated through practical stories will help each individual who reads this clearly understand the applica-

tion of God's promises

- 4) These truths are timely, relating to the theme God is impressing on us of contentment in the midst of turmoil and preparing for what God has for us in the near future as well

We think this book is a great devotional for couples, families, and singles alike. Charlene and I believe it will bless you and help you navigate through times when God has allowed pressures so that we might move into greater contentment with His Sovereign choices for us!