

During this time of year there seems to be an enormous PUSH for us to buy and spend beyond our means. Sadly, the Christmas Season has become a season of commerce that has taken us beyond the real meaning of Christmas.

When I was a little girl, I can remember getting 2 maybe 3 presents. The anticipation of the day was not all about the presents either. Christmas was a time to gather with family and friends and enjoy the simpler things of life. The saying "We've come a long way baby" could certainly apply to today's Christmas tradition! It seems that there is an emptiness that we are trying to overcompensate for at Christmas time. Filling the stockings has overflowed into a need that far surpasses the Christmases of years gone by.

The writer of Proverbs 30 makes a startling request of God. He asks that the Lord remove vanity and lies from him and give him only what is allotted him. Interestingly the word vanity here means emptiness. As I pondered this statement it occurred to me that perhaps we are running around trying to fill up the stockings at the end of the year because we are running on empty. The next part of the verse reveals the answer we all need; be content with what is allotted to us. The writer here understands that if he has too much he will not lean on God and if he has too little he will be discontent. Therefore, he requests that vanity, emptiness be removed from him.

The emptiness that we have can only be filled by God. No amount of material possessions can fulfill our need for Him; no social activity can fill this void; and no work can satisfy our longing for Him. We were created to have fellowship with God. Only He can satisfy our desires. Only He can fill our lives with the joy and contentment we long for. Godliness with contentment is truly great gain! (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

God sent Jesus to be born in a simple manger and live a simple life to help us understand that contentment means relying on God to meet *all* our needs. I don't believe God likes poverty and I don't believe He is against wealth. He desires for us to be content. Jesus lived a life of contentment. He had all that He needed plus He had plenty to meet the needs of others. How many of us could feed 5000 people and have leftovers? He did not lack in any way. His emotional, social, physical, and spiritual needs were all fulfilled in one thing; His relationship to God the Father. That is true prosperity!

So if you're tired of being sucked into the black hole of today's Christmas season, let me suggest that you take an inventory of your own life. Are you running on empty? Do you need to stop by the Holy Ghost Filling tank and ask

for a FILL UP?! It could be one the best stops you make this season. You might even be surprised at what you DON'T WANT after you're tank is filled by Him. Jesus is the reason for the Season of Christmas. Let's focus on Him and allow the Lord to fulfill our desires. When we do this, He promises that He Himself will GIVE US the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4). Now that's a present that I want all of us to have!

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to seek You first. You have promised in Your word that You would supply all my needs and never leave or forsake me. I confess that I have allowed the spirit of commerce and the world to influence me and I ask You to forgive me and free me from its influence. As I draw near to You, I know that You are faithful to draw near to me. Thank you for sending Your Son Jesus so that I could be redeemed and set free from the emptiness in my life. Holy Spirit fill me to overflowing so that in all things and in all ways I will truly be content and at peace. In Jesus Name, Amen



*Proverbs 30:7-8 Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove vanity and lies from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food allotted to me, lest I be full and deny You.*