

Wednesday, November 25

One major temptation you face in life is being envious of your friends, family, neighbors, and others you know because of the things that they possess and the life they seem to lead. Whether it's money, cars, houses, jobs, families, health, or other possessions, it's easy to want and desire what you don't have. However, Scripture is very clear that being envious is not only unwise and sinful but also can rob you of the life and peaceful sense of gratitude God wants for you.

James 3:13-18 and Psalm 73

How do these passages describe the disorder and destruction that envy can bring you?

Of whom or what do you struggle with being envious? For what can you be grateful instead?

Thursday, November 26

Gratitude definitely shows itself in your outward actions. By giving, you show both honor to God, who gives generously to you, and love for others, by sharing what you have been given. A lifestyle of grateful giving keeps you focused on God's abundance, not on what you have or don't have.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Psalm 37:22-26

Why does God bless you with abundance? How does giving show thanks to God?

When you give offerings to God, the church, or directly to those in need, do you give out of gratitude, obligation, or guilt?

Friday, November 27

Envy of others not only robs you of life, it also keeps you from accomplishing the purposes God created you to fulfill. However, when you keep your eyes on God and gratefully live out the purpose for which you were created, like John the Baptist, you too can say that "the joy is mine, and (my work) is now complete."

John 3:22-36

How did John the Baptist keep from being envious of Jesus' growing ministry while his ministry declined? Why was he joyful about Jesus' ministry?

How can serving others keep you grateful for God's blessings, rather than envious for what you don't have?

Saturday, November 28

True gratitude means being thankful for what God gives you and content in any and every situation God places you. You can only be content, however, if you continually trust and rely on Christ, who will be faithful in meeting your needs. Contentment and peace are by-products of recognizing and appreciating who made you and who continually strengthens you with Christ's power and love.

Philippians 4:10-13, Hebrews 13:5-6, and 1 Timothy 6:3-10

In Philippians 4, what does Paul say is the secret to being content?

Are you content with what you have in life? Why or why not?