

What Hast Thou That Thou Didst Not Receive?

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(1 Cor 4:7) For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

- I. Very few people are satisfied with themselves.
 - A. Something about themselves that they have no control over is not pleasing to them.
 - 1. Physical appearance.
 - 2. Intelligence.
 - 3. Strength.
 - 4. Health.
 - 5. Talents and abilities.
 - B. Many people make their own life misery because of their dissatisfaction with something that they have absolutely no control over.

(Mat 6:27) Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

- C. People are always looking at someone else and wishing to be like them in the qualities mentioned above or in position, but what about this question:

Who maketh thee to differ from another?

- D. On the other hand, if we are pleased with ourselves in any of these areas we turn it into pride.
 - 1. “Why dost thou glory?”
 - 2. How foolish is it to be proud of something that you had nothing to do with?
 - 3. We have no right to be proud and boastful of something that we simply received – as if we have obtained it by our own means.
 - 4. Likewise, we have no right to be sad, ashamed, and bitter and about the way God made us and the measure of any of these physical and mental qualities He has endowed us with.
- II. The things we DO have control over are the things that we should strive to do well with.
 - A. While we do this we must keep in mind that without Jesus we can do NOTHING.
 - B. If God does not enable us and bless our efforts they will come to nothing.
 - C. If God does bless our efforts and enable us to succeed we must realize that it is His doing – without his blessing we could not have done it.

“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the Ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid?” – Ben Franklin

- D. There are things about our appearance, our strength, our health, our thinking ...that we can do something about, and we should.
 - 1. But at best what we can do is limited and therefore we should do all we can and then accept with joy what God has given us.

III. All things are of God.

(James 1:17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

A. We possess nothing that is not given us of God.

(1 Tim 6:7) For we brought nothing into *this world*, and *it is certain we can carry nothing out*.

B. Even physical belongings and money are not really ours – we are just using them for a time.

C. This is proven by the fact that if you die today someone else will have your possessions tomorrow.

(Luke 12:20) But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

D. Why do we blame God for what we do not have and boast of the things we do have?

E. We should be content with such things as we have and thank God for them.

1. Realizing that we are just stewards and using the things for a short time.

F. We should live as guests here on earth because that is what we are.

1. Instead we act as if we own everything.

(Heb 11:13) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(1 Pet 2:11) Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

(Luke 12:21) So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

(Heb 13:5) Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.