

## The Spirit of Discontent

In our culture we hear a voice that sounds much like a voice heard long ago as the children of Israel traveled from the furnace of affliction in Egypt to the promised land of Caanan. That voice is the voice of discontent.

To be content means that our desires are limited to what we have; we are satisfied, easy in our mind. The Word says in I Timothy 6:6 that "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

Paul speaks to us from Philippians 4:11 that being content is a learned response; whether you are abased or abound, you will be content when it is Christ Who is your sufficiency. The Word also teaches us that discontentment displeases God. Numbers 11:1 says that when the people grumbled it was "evil in His ears and His anger was kindled."

Discontentment disregards God's Divine Presence promised to His children. In spite of the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to go before them, to defend them, to show them where to pitch their tents and when they should journey, they were not content.

Today as born-again, spirit-filled believers, we have the promise of the Divine Presence of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16,17) Whom we disregard when we are discontent.

Discontentment despises the promises of God: John 14:1,2 and Luke 18:28-30 assure us of His care in every circumstance as we trust in Him and His Word.

In Exodus 16 and Numbers 11 we read how contentment versus discontentment affects our taste buds! In Exodus 16 when manna was first sent it tasted like honey (vs.30) but in Numbers 11:8 when they were tired of it, the manna tasted like oil! Now, oil may be fine mixed with vinegar and spices on a salad, but oil in the mouth by itself does not have a pleasant taste.

Daily manna is often compared to our need to "digest" the Word of God daily. How sweet the Word is when we are content, how bitter it can be when we are discontented.

Often we voice our discontent to God by asking Him to grant some request we have, or to remove us from a difficult situation. If we beg enough God may grant our request but send leanness to our souls (Psalm 106:15).

To be disciplined by our discontent is to turn from the complaining spirit, to have a grateful heart, to praise God for all He has done and given and to walk in the power of Hebrews 13:5,6 -- being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, so that we confidently say, The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?