

**T**oday we continue discussing the GAS Principle by looking at its second element. As a reminder, the GAS Principle states:

1. **God owns everything (Psalm 24:1-2)**
2. **Accept what you have (Hebrews 13:5)**
3. **Seek first His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33) and submit your requests to Him (Proverbs 19:21)**

Most folks don't accept what they have; constantly they try to change them and their circumstances. So they miss what God prepared for them. If we don't know what we have, how do we experience the Lord's presence?

Consider Elisha and his servant. In the same physical location, one saw gloom, the other victory. We read in 2 Kings 6:17:

**And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

After prayer, the servant saw what was already there! Do you relate to this?

Admittedly, where we are today may not be where we want to be, and may be uncomfortable because of our poor choices. But God is merciful and although we have to bear results of disobedience, He forgives us and uses where we are to teach us and help us grow closer to Him. But we can only benefit if, like Elisha's servant, we "open our eyes."

Do you notice how we act? We look back either joyfully or with regret, or look ahead to UTOPIA on earth. Seldom do we thank Jesus for today's circumstances and ask him to guide us through, especially when conditions are bad. I am not suggesting we shouldn't look back, and look ahead, merely that we need to experience the present so we may see what God prepared for us.

Hebrews 13:5 says:

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**Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."**

What a wonderful assurance! God will never, ever, leave those who give Him their lives. In John 10:27-30, Jesus says no one can snatch His followers from Him. Does this excite you as much as me?

Do you realize contentment will bring you peace and gratitude, and allow you to experience and enjoy the moment? In turn, it will lead you to accept who you are and not spend thousands of dollars try to change you.

**Presentation to 100 Huntley Street**

**February 23: The Gas Principle - Accept what you have - Hebrews 13:5**

Psalm 139:14 says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made, but many don't believe it and are discontented.

Do you know Americans spend US\$ 8.5 billion yearly on self-improvement aids like weight loss and get rich quick and effortlessly schemes? I am sure Canadian numbers are proportionately large.

To get contentment and lasting change, we need to surrender all our heart to Christ and give Him control of our lives. After all, He knows our past, present, and future, doesn't make mistakes, and wants the best for His children.

Have you noticed? Jesus never refers to His adults! No, His followers are His children that He wants to give His best. Yet, we look beyond Him for happiness.

**American social researcher David Myers found between 1960 and 1993, average Americans doubled real incomes ... but were less happy, more depressed, had more fragile relationships, and more demoralized children.**

Where are you today? Are you experiencing God's presence? Do you have funds and not sure how to spend them? Or, are you like most Canadians, in debt and worried?

God knows your condition. Ask Him to show you what He has prepared for you. Like King David, we must bear the costs of our actions. But with the right attitude, we can learn from them. If you are in debt, this could be an excellent time to grow close to the Lord. Cling to Jesus and learn lessons He prepared for you as He guides you to a debt free lifestyle. Later we will talk about a Christ-centered approach to getting out of debt.

Next time we will look at the "S" in the GAS Principle.

God bless and remember Jesus loves you.