

As Having Nothing, yet Possessing Everything  
(II Cor. 6: 4-10; Fill. 3; Matt. 10:39; Luke 12:15-21)

A rich man came to YAHSHUA wanting to know what he must do to obtain eternal life. YAHSHUA answered him, "To enter into life you must continually keep the commandments". What sort of commandments? He asked. YAHSHUA presented him with the commandments that dealt with human relationships. But not admitting to his sins, He said, "I have observed all these *from my youth*; what still do I need"? YASHSUA answered, Go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; and come, be My disciple (Matt. 19:17-21). That was the nerve of the matter- his riches. YAHSHUA'S words caused him to go away sad and distressed, for he had great wealth. Yes, he had everything, but possessed nothing. The taking up of the cross to follow YAHSHUA is as having nothing, yet possessing everything; it is to travel light with no baggage of greed and worries of riches. He said, "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever finds his life, will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matt. 10: 38-39). A life that consists of earthly treasures will in the end lose all at the hands of thieves, moth and rust. It is as having everything earthly, but possessing nothing of eternal value, because he is so worried about the earthly treasures. In the parable of the rich man, who was controlled by greed and indifference toward his eternal tomorrow, He had this to say, "You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared – whose will they be?" And He summarized by saying, "That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward YAHWEH." He also said that life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. That is, man's life is not derived from **possessing overflowing abundance** or that which is over and above his needs (the Amplified Bible).

Paul left everything of material value in pursuit of the eternal one; he faithfully lived a life that pictured his words, "As having nothing, yet possessing everything". He said, But in all things we commend ourselves in every way as [true] servants of YAHWEH: through **great endurance, in tribulation and suffering, in hardships and privations, in sore straits and calamities, in beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless watching, hunger; by innocence and purity, knowledge and spiritual insight, longsuffering and patience, kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in unfeigned love, by the word of truth, in the power of YAHWEH, with the weapons of righteousness for the fight hand and for the left hand amid honor and dishonor; in defaming and evil report and in praise and good report; [we are branded] as deceivers and [yet vindicated as] truthful and honest. [We are treated] as unknown and ignored and [yet we are] well-known and recognized [by God and His people]; as dying, and yet here we are alive; as chastened by suffering and [yet] not killed; as grieved and mourning, yet always rejoicing; as poor [ourselves, yet] bestowing riches on many, as having nothing and [yet in reality] possessing all things** (II Cor. 6:4-10).

The things that were gains to him, he considered as loss for the life Christ offered him. He considered everything to be nothing compared to the privilege to know Christ. He declared that his determined purpose was to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and to share in His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness, even] to His death

(Phil. 3: 7-10). To desire the spiritual riches is not only for a few Christians; it is for all who have experienced the new birth in Christ's death. Our focus should be to gather treasures that count for heaven; although having nothing in this world, we can be counted having everything through Christ.

What worldly value could be compared with the spiritual position of the believer in YAHSHUA? Paul said that YAHWEH has raised us together with His Son and has made us sit down together in the heavenly sphere (Ephesians 2:6). That, my friend, is having everything with contentment, not desiring anything else, but to know the Savior. How blessed we are in Him! If this does not excite you in your daily spiritual walk, compelling you to trade the riches of the world for the precious gift of eternal life and obedience to Christ, I don't know what will. Worldly riches are sometimes a trap for those who go after them. To know Christ only as the Savior is not enough to have spiritual success. But to have Him as Lord also, it is to experience the richness of His promises; it is to say, "As having nothing, yet possessing everything".

The spiritual blessings in Christ are given to the believers for the purposes to show YAHWEH'S faithfulness and love in every aspect of their spiritual life; **(1) We are chosen before the foundation of the world to be holy, (2) we are destined to be adopted as His own children (3) we are redeemed by His blood for the forgiveness of sins (4) He has revealed to us the mystery of His plan and purpose (5) we obtained an inheritance (6) we were stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit guaranteeing our inheritance, the anticipation of its full redemption (Eph.1:4-14). (7) We were predestined, called, justified, sanctified and glorified.**

The joy of the Lord strengthens the believer to apply contentment in his/her daily living. True happiness is not found in things, but in the abiding in Him; in applied obedience, we will have the faith that will lead us upwardly to heaven; in applied faith and hope, we will have the peace that fulfills the longings of the soul.

"As having nothing, yet possessing everything" is the best way to show contentment, assured of the Shepherd's love in meeting our every-day needs. Because the Lord is my shepherd I lack nothing; He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters; He renews my life (soul); He leads me along the right paths; even when I go through the shadow of death I will not fear any evil for He is with me; His rod and His staff will comfort me; a table He prepares for me in the presence of my enemies; He anoints my head with oil, my cup overflows in victory; His goodness and His faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life; at the end of it, I will dwell in the house He has prepared for me (Psalm 23). He left a promise that He is going to prepare a place and then He will come back for me. So I must live in contentment of "As having nothing, but having everything in Him".

**THINK ABOUT IT!**