

GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT



The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: (Ruth 4:11 KJV)

Is it better to love and have no children or to be unloved and have many sons? This is something our foremothers, Leah and Rachel, struggled with.

Rachel was beautiful and well-favored. Her husband Jacob cherished Rachel and would do anything for her, but this wasn't enough. Her desire for children made her envious of her sister and caused problems in her relationships. Even after she gave birth to her first son Joseph, it wasn't enough. She said, "The Lord shall add to me another son." Indeed she did get another son but died in childbirth. Rachel wanted only to win. She was not patient nor content with her lot, and ultimately this was one of the things that led to her demise.

Leah was overlooked, less favored, and lacked her sister's beauty. She wanted only to be loved by her husband. God saw she was hated and made her a mother not once but seven times. With each child, in her grief, she continued to pray and hope that Jacob could love her the way he loved Rachel. Leah didn't know she was destined to be his first and last wife and that the priest and kings, including our Lord and Savior Jesus, would come through her. In the end, Jacob was laid to rest with Leah, not his favorite wife, Rachel, as was Abraham with Sarah and Isaac with Rebekah. Do you think if Leah knew this, she would have lived a more content life?

Both sisters had something the other longed for. Leah wanted to be loved, and Rachel wanted children. Because they could not appreciate the things they did have, they began competing with each other. In Genesis 30:8 (KJV), Rachel says, "I have wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed!" At the time, neither could see that they both had a purpose and would help build the house of Israel together.

We should not be envious of our sisters. Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we should be thankful. We must play our position, pray for the things we want, be patient, and trust the process. God has a plan for each of us.



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Steps to Finding Contentment

1. **Study Pray Apply (SPA) and Fast**
2. **Practice Gratitude**
3. **Stop Comparing Yourself To Others**
4. **Find Your Tribe.** *Spend time around supportive people who will help build you up. (Proverbs 27:17)*
5. **Esteem Others More Than Yourself.** *Be happy for their gifts and accomplishments. We all have different offices but work toward a common goal. (Philippians 2:3)*
6. **Love Yourself.** *There is only one you. Water your own grass. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain.