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## AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

I grew up in a family that in today's world standards would be considered as being poor. Yet, despite not having a lot of worldly goods and money, I was taught to be thankful for what we had. My mother was a big influence in my life along these lines. In fact, I never felt poor because she made us feel valuable in spite of not having a lot of "things" that the world would call success. I learned very young that success was not about what you have because those things are temporal.

I learned that an attitude of gratitude was the way to enjoy life. I have met so many people that are never satisfied with what God has given them, be it plenty or be it little. Some are always wanting more and more only to find that more things just do not bring satisfaction.

Paul speaks a lot about this in the book of Philippians. He had been raised with wealth and a high position but walked away from it all for Jesus. In his call as an apostle there were many times that he lacked. He learned that his peace came from God and not things. In Philippians 4:11 he said, (after having gone without some basic necessities), ***"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."***

Paul had an attitude of gratitude. He was so in love with the Lord and wanting to please Him, that nothing else really mattered to him. When we get to that place where things no longer control us and our emotions, then we also will have peace. We will then walk with an attitude of gratitude.