

The Bible says, “godliness with contentment is great gain.” Sometimes, however, that contentment might feel lacking for various reasons. My love for electronic gadgetry has been waning these recent months. While traveling, I experienced technology disasters with my computer, cell phone, and even my satellite-link watch that impaired my ability to communicate with my church and family, write articles and prepare messages, stay on top of changing world events, and even know what time it was. Many times, I was dependent on others to help me or had to wait in line to use their stuff. Although I nearly lost a shoulder carting my laptop everywhere I went, I found myself in need of a serious techno-upgrade. I really didn’t have a chance to share about this yet as there have been too many other things to talk about. I was shocked this past weekend when someone called and said there was a gift that was to be delivered on Saturday. When the moment had arrived, the whole family was ecstatic as we opened the box. I am having a blast this week experimenting with my brand-new Macbook.

Reflecting on this experience, I am reminded of a number of critical lessons from God’s word that are essential to remember.

1) Sometimes we grow dependent on the wrong things. We are created by God and rely on him for every functioning cell in our bodies. Our very breath reflects a dependence on the almighty God. As we see these things in our physical world, it is easier to understand the things of the spirit.

2) Communication breakdowns can lead to a greater desire to ensure proper connections. When I felt out of touch due to my inability to log on to the Internet or get a cell phone signal, this should remind me of the things that the Bible teaches us that interferes with our ability to communicate with God. As prayer and worship enable a connection between earth and heaven, selfishness and sin create the kind of techno-hazard that I experienced — where one can’t seem to get a connection.

3) Although I didn’t share with others my frustrations with these modern devices, God knew my needs and had already taken care of them.

4) When we are praying for miracles from heaven, God so often loves to employ people to be the tools that he uses. This new Macbook didn’t just appear out of thin air onto my coffee table. God moved on the hearts of some of his people who were ready to hear, and they purchased and sent it.

5) God does take care of all of our needs. It is beneficial sometimes for us to get to a place where we recognize and clarify the difference between a need and a greed.


6) God always sends us toward success. He is not setting us up for failure. As I was on this trip to do his mission, there was the temptation to question why God would allow such challenges to exist that seemed to hinder so much productivity. But God was there in strength. He moved powerfully, opened hearts, saved lives, built up leaders, and he used the simple teaching of his word, even without the use of technology.

7) The Bible teaches us to write his word on the tablets of our hearts. Sometimes we feel that we do not need to memorize or learn since we have our devices nearby to reference. Here is a great reminder that he has asked us to record and treasure his truths inside us.

I hope that my experience may help you remember how God has been faithful in taking care of all of your needs, hearing your prayer, enabling communication channels, keeping his promises, and maybe even surprising you with how much he loves to bless you.

To read other articles by Pastor Dan visit [Ojai Valley News Articles](#)

Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. This article was published in 2009. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.

 CALVARY CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH <small>of the Ojai Valley</small>	Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 10:30am Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley 195 Mahoney Ave, Oak View
	Mid-Week Study: 7:00pm Thursday Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley 195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View
P.O. Box 1443 Ojai, CA 93024 (805) 640-9498 www.calvaryojai.org	