

Perfecting Joy: The Book of Philippians

Joy of Contentment



Beneath the surface of Paul's expression of thanks to the Philippians is the heart of an amazingly content man. In spite of dire circumstances Paul had learned how to rejoice in all things. In the midst of our mostly discontented culture we **CAN** live in contentment.

Philippians Overview: Introduction

- **Key verses in Philippians:**

Phil 4:4; 1:6; 2:12-13; 3:3; 4:7; 4:11; 4:13; 4:19

- **Peace and Contentment**

A. **Peace** is received *John 14:27*

Contentment is learned *Phil 4:11-12*

B. **Peace** guards us *Phil 4:7*

Contentment satisfies us *Phil 4:12*

C. **Peace** works with prayer *Phil 4:7*

Contentment works with godliness *1 Tim 6:6*

D. **Peace** looks to what we have in Christ...
not what we have in this world.

Contentment is realizing that God has already given me everything I need for my present happiness.

A contented person is...

1. Confident in God's Providence *Phil 4:10*

A. The times, seasons, and opportunities of life are controlled by a sovereign God. *Eph 1:11; Rom 8:28*

2. Satisfied with Little *Phil 4:11*

A. Need has become the number one value in our culture!

"I need, I need. I need." *Bob Wiley*

B. The purpose of man is not to have his needs met but to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. *1 Cor 6:19-20*

3. Independent from Circumstances *Phil 4:12*

A. Contentment is learning to live ABOVE our circumstances and not let them affect us in a negative way.

4. Strengthened by Divine Power *Phil 4:13*

A. Paul is saying here that he could overcome the most dire physical difficulties because of the inner, spiritual strength God had given him.

5. Preoccupied with the Well-Being of Others *Phil 4:14-19*

A. Those who live only for themselves will never be content, because contentment for them can come only when their circumstances are exactly as they want them to be. And that will never happen.

B. Only those who unselfishly put others' well-being above their own will find contentment.

*Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want,
but the realization of how much you already have.*

See Philippians 4:19

Philippians 4:10-20

:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.

Everywhere and in all things I have **learned** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

:13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

:14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

:15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

:16 For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.

:17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

:19 **And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

:20 Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

:21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

:22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.