

THE JOY OF CONTENTMENT

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-20

Vs. 4 For real, rejoice in the Lord always! Even on the cross, Jesus was motivated by joy (Heb 12:2).

Vs. 5 When we know that Jesus is coming soon, we can live in gentleness. Otherwise, we will live frantic lives in fear and lack stability. We will try to make things work out in our own strength, in the strength of our flesh. God is Spirit, those who worship must do so in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Vs. 6 When there are opportunities for anxiety, do not take it up. Instead, pray with thanksgiving and let God know. It doesn't mean God will get you out of the situation, but His peace will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thes. 5:18).

Vs. 7-8 Meditate on the good things of God (Psa. 27:14; Isa. 40:31)

Vs. 11-12 Paul learned in whatever state, to be content. He experienced what it was like to abound and to be abased and he learned to rely on God's strength.

Heb. 13:5 (NIV) Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Now godliness with contentment is great gain.⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content...¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness (1 Tim. 6:6-8, 11)

Paul learned to live with heavenly realities (2 Cor. 5:7 walk by faith, not by sight, Phil. 3:20-21 our citizenship is in heaven, we will be transformed.

...For the form of this world is passing away (1 Cor. 7:31)

Vs. 13 I can do all things. The primary context here is financial, but it can apply to every aspect of our lives. Paul learned to rely on the strength Christ released to him. Learn to strengthen yourself in the Lord. Learn to rejoice, meditate on the things of the Lord, pray in the spirit (Jude 1:20), etc..

1 Sam. 30:6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

Vs. 17 The book of Philippians was written from Paul's first imprisonment in Rome while he was under house arrest. Yet, despite his circumstances, the overwhelming theme of this letter is joy, rejoicing, and thanksgiving. Paul thanks them and says: I didn't need it, but I'm thankful that you have something that goes towards your account. I'm excited not for my sake, but for your sake, because it makes you rich!

Vs. 19 Because of their faith in giving, Paul reminds them that God is faithful as we give (Luke 6:38). When you give, first, give to the Lord. Don't give to the church, to the pastor, to a ministry. Then you will get rewards and acknowledgment from the ministry or person. Give to the Lord, your reward will be from Him (Act. 10:4)