



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS TO BE CONTENT

Philippians 4:10-20

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. 11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. 14 Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

- ***“What would it take to make you happy and content in life?”***
- **Some people think the pathway to “contentment” is looking good, feeling good, having the “goods”, doing good or having someone who is “good”.**
- **Popularity, pleasure, possessions, accomplishments and even other people are not what brings lasting satisfaction to our lives.**
- **Paul - “I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.” (Philippians 4:11-12)**
- **People experiencing lots of difficulty can still have real contentment in their lives if they have a strong relationship with Jesus.**
- **Jesus - “My purpose is to give people a rich and satisfying life.” (John 10:10)**
- ***What are some steps to experiencing real contentment and happiness in life?”***

“Real Contentment” Comes From:

DEVELOPING GODLY PARTNERSHIPS

- **Paul - “How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me . . .” (Philippians 4:10)**
- **Paul was grateful for his friends back in Philippi who loved him, prayed for him and supported him.**
- **Paul’s words remind us that *Faithful Friends Are Of Great Value To Our Lives.***
 - ***“A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.” (Proverbs 17:17)***
 - ***“A real friend sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24b)***
 - **If we can count our real, true friends on one hand, we are fortunate.**

- Paul's words remind us that **Faithful Friends Help Us Achieve Victory In Our Lives.**
 - "As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend." (Proverbs 27:17)
 - **The test of a friend is – am I a better person because of my friend?**
 - "The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense." (Proverbs 27:9)
- **Who are some godly friends in my life, and how have they helped me become more godly and contented?**

"Real Contentment" Comes From:

TRUSTING IN THE LORD'S PLANS

- Paul - *"I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little."* (Philippians 4:11-12)
- Paul's words remind us that **Great Problems Are Sometimes A Part Of Our Lives.**
 - Jesus – *"In this world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)
 - **Jesus has commanded us to "take Heart," which means to have courage, confidence and cheer in spite of our circumstances.**
 - The Lord - *"This is My command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)
- Paul's words remind us of **God's Purposes For Allowing Us To Experience Significant Problems In Our Lives.**
 - **The Lord often uses difficult times to help us become stronger in our faith and in our lives.**
 - *"We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us – they help us to learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us . . ."* (Romans 5:3-4)
 - **The Lord is more interested in the development of our character than He is in our comfort or careers, and when we understand that we will be on the pathway to experiencing real contentment in our lives.**
- **What steps do I need to take to be more content regardless of my circumstances?**

"Real Contentment" Comes From:

DEPENDING ON THE LORD'S POWER

- Paul - *"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:13)
- **Confidence should characterize every Christian's life.**
- **We can daily live confident, contented lives because We Have A Relationship With The Lord.**
 - *"I can do everything through Christ . . ."* (Philippians 4:13)
 - **The Lord comes into our lives at salvation in the person of the Holy Spirit.**
 - *"When you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people."* (Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - **The Lord's presence brings strength, satisfaction and security to our lives.**

- *“This is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing His glory.”* (Colossians 1:27)
- **We can daily live confident, contented lives because *We Have Great Resources From The Lord.***
 - *“I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”* (Philippians 4:13)
 - **“Gives me strength” means “to infuse power into”** (1 Timothy 1:12, 2 Timothy 4:17, Ephesians 6:10).
 - *“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do His work.”* (1 Timothy 1:12)
 - *“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”* (Ephesians 6:10)
 - **Our confidence as Christians should not be in what we can do, but in what we can do through the power and strength that we receive from the Lord.**
- ***How can relying on the Lord’s strength bring more contentment to my life?***
- **People today tend to be more “covetous” than “contented.”**
- *“Don’t be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry.”* (Colossians 3:5)
- **Popularity, pleasure, possessions and accomplishments are not what bring lasting satisfaction to our lives.**
- Paul - *“I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with Him.”* (Philippians 3:7-9)
- **Real contentment is experienced by us in our lives when we have a strong relationship with Jesus and we are living daily in His will for our lives.**
- Jesus - *“My purpose is to give people a rich and satisfying life.”* (John 10:10)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and what steps do I need to take to respond to Him today?***

DIG DEEPER: Resources for Continued Study

Deeper Into Scripture: Philippians by Bible.com and YouVersion - [Click Here to View on Bible.com](#)

How To Read Philippians by Tim Mackie - [Click Here to View on Rightnow Media](#)

Philippians Bible Book Study with Jo Saxton - [Click Here to View on Rightnow Media](#)

For free access to Rightnow Media, text “rightnow cel” to 41411.