

Good News Church GA  
**Men's Ministry**  
4-22-26

Sermon Series:  
***“Joy in the Journey”***  
Paul's letter to the Philippians

**SCRIPTURE TEXT: Philippians 4:10-23**

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>21</sup> Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. <sup>22</sup> All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. <sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen

## Sermon & Book Notes

Sermon – *“The Generosity of Joy”* (Ray Souza)  
*“Be Joyful”* (Wiersbe) Ch. 12 – *“The Secret of Contentment”*

The difference between a thermometer and a thermostat and is that a thermometer registers the temperature, while a thermostat changes the temperature. Leaders are thermostats because leaders change things. Paul was a thermostat. He changed the things around him rather than letting the things around him change him. Contentment in Christ empowers us in this way.

Paul was not a victim of circumstances, but a victor over circumstances.

- “I can accept all things” (Phil 4:11)
- “I can do all things” (Phil. 4:13)
- “I have all things” (Phil. 4:18)

Contentment is not complacency. The complacent believer is unconcerned about others, while the contented believer wants to share his blessings.

Contentment is not escape from the battle, but rather an abiding peace and confidence in the midst of the battle.

*"I have learned to be content in whatever state I am in."* – Phil. 4:11

The word "content" actually means "contained." It is a description of the man whose resources are within him so that he does not have to depend on substitutes without. The Greek word for "content" means "self-sufficient." The Christian is not self-sufficient but Christ sufficient.

Because Christ lives within us, we are adequate for the demands of life, specifically through these 3 spiritual resources:

### **1. The Overruling Providence of God (4:10)**

- Providence comes from two Latin words Pro + Video = To See Before, and it means that God is working in advance to arrange circumstances and situations for the fulfilling of His purposes (e.g. the story of Joseph in Gen. 37-50)
- *"Life is not a series of accidents. It's a series of appointments."* – Warren Wierbe

### **2. The Unfailing Power of God (4:11-13)**

- Paul learned to abound in every circumstance, including poverty, prosperity, and everything in between.
- Prosperity has done more damage to believers than has adversity.
- Through trial and testing, Paul was initiated into the wonderful secret of contentment in spite of poverty or prosperity.
- *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me"* (Phil 4:13). It was the power of Christ within Paul that gave him spiritual contentment.
- The unfailing power of God is the deep, hidden resource of God's power to be content in any situation. We can be ready for anything that God has for us to do. The Christian has all the power needed within that is needed to be adequate for the demands of life.
- Recommended reading: *"Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret"* by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. For many years Hudson Taylor worked hard to do God's work but was missing joy and liberty in his ministry, until he realized that he was trusting in himself as his own source of power, rather than trusting in Christ. This was a turning point in his life.
- Jesus taught this same lesson in the sermon on the vine. *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Without me, you can do nothing"* (John 15).

### **3. The Unchanging Promise of God (4:10-20)**

- Paul was grateful for the generosity from the church at Philippi and compared their generosity to that of:
  - a) a budding tree (vs. 10)
  - b) an investment (vs. 14-17)
  - c) a sacrifice (vs. 18)

- Paul knew that this generosity was not only from the church at Philippi but was ultimately from God, His Source and His Provider.
- There is an interesting relationship between Philippians 4:18 and 19. Paul is saying to the Philippian church, “*You met my need and therefore, God will meet your need.*”

### CH. 13 “Putting Philippians to Work” (i.e., Application)

*Here are Warren Wiersbe’s closing recommendations for how to apply everything that we’ve learned in this study of Philippians.*

1. **SURRENDER** - Surrender your mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day. See Rom. 12:1-2.
2. **MEDITATE** - Let the Holy Spirit renew your mind through the Word. Spend time in God’s Word.
3. **ASK** - As you pray, ask God to give you that day a single mind, a submissive mind, a spiritual mind, and a secure mind. As you contemplate your schedule for the day, be sure that nothing you have planned robs you of the joy God wants you to have. Ask God to meet you with His joy in every situation of the day.
4. **INVENTORY** - During the day, “mind your mind.” Take inventory throughout the day on how you’re doing. Make corrections and confessions wherever necessary, reset, and keep going.
5. **THINK** - Guard the gates of your mind. Remember Philippians 4:8 to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, etc. You can combat wrong thinking by filling your mind with Scripture.
6. **SHARE** - Remember that your joy is not meant to be a selfish thing; it is God’s way of glorifying Christ and helping others through you. Jesus Others You = JOY

### Discussion Questions

1. What is contentment? In what areas of your life do you struggle with this? How can you improve in this?
2. What is the difference between being complacent and being content?
3. Is contentment born in us or learned? Explain.
4. What is God’s providence? How does Romans 8:28 help us trust in God’s providence?
5. Why do you think prosperity has done more damage to believers than adversity?
6. What does the author mean when he says, “The most important part of the Christian’s life is the part that only God sees”?
7. What do you think Philippians 4:13 really means and how do we apply it to our lives?
8. From Wiersbe’s closing six recommendations for application in this study, which of these would you most like prayer as you seek to apply these truths to your life?
9. What are you going to take away from this study in Philippians and seek to apply to your life?