

Be Content
Philippians 4:10-23
September 3, 2023

Whatever true, noble and just, think on these things and the God of peace will be with you.

Paul goes on in verses 11-13 really to define joy for us!

- 1) **Our only true NEED is to know God, PERIOD (vs. 10 and 13). that is where contentment is found.**

Our only true Source, is God, everything else is a resource, those things that He uses to meet our only need or to point back to it, HIM.

Without the Source we have no life and without resources, we may be in distress and yet content!

- 2) **Circumstances, in and of themselves, do not have to define us, good or bad! (vs, 11-12)**

Abased vs. abound

Full vs. hungry

Abound vs. suffer need

Prosperity has done more damage to believers than adversity.

We get ourselves in trouble when things get hard, don't go our way or face a struggle; we turn to ungodly resources.

- 3) **Being content (in the Lord) is not simply learned by education, but education combined with experiences.**

Learned – in verse 11 – overall learn, know etc.

Learned – in verse 12 – different word entirely. In the Greek it's "initiated" in our English "instructed" meaning "initiated into the mysteries." That is, some things can't or won't be learned but thru the struggle. Thy mystery of being content was learned by Paul as he walked with the Spirit and so he could write that he had learned or been "initiated to the mysteries." How, how could he write this? Because he learned and was still learning that God was his contentment regardless of the situation!

- 4) **The only way we can do anything, truly, is because of Christ in us, who is our strength.**

Philippians 4:13 wasn't written when Paul was out of jail, from a comfy chair, with all he wanted to eat and ever have. It was written in jail after all that he had been thru.

He could bear any trial, perform any duty, subdue any evil propensity of his nature, and meet all the temptations incident to any condition of prosperity or adversity. His own experience in the various changes of life had warranted him in arriving at this conclusion; and he now expresses the firm confidence that nothing would be required of him which he would not be able to perform. In Paul, this declaration was not a vain self-reliance, nor was it the mere result of his former experience. He knew well where the strength was to be obtained by which to do all things, and on that arm that was able to uphold him he confidently relied.¹

- 5) While God Himself is our only true need and contentment, He uses resources, that are from the source (Himself) to show us the way, come alongside us, and point us back to the source.**
- 6) Our giving is a resource that comes from the source, we give back to Him and His work.**

Prayer Focus:

Am I content in my circumstances or content in Him?

Am I letting circumstances define me or who I am in Him?

Am I overcoming and doing what God would want, in His strength or mine?

Have I thanked God, not only for the resources, but for who He is lately?

¹ Barnes, A. (1884–1885). [*Notes on the New Testament: Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians*](#). (R. Frew, Ed.) (pp. 217–227). London: Blackie & Son.