



Philippians



The Mind of Contentment • Philippians 4:10–23





ARE YOU CONTENT?

1. The mind of contentment is confident in and thankful for God's provision (v. 10)

- The Philippian church had a desire to **multiply**
- As time went on, their concern for him never changed, but their opportunities did
 - Their gift revived their Gospel partnership
- Paul is thankful for their gift, but ultimately rejoices in the Lord greatly!
- Paul's strong view of God's sovereignty, led to trust in God, His plan and purposes

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

PHILIPPIANS 4:10

2. The mind of contentment is quick to be thankful (v. 11)

- Paul's circumstances did not dictate his ability to be content.
 - *Content* means: self-sufficient, having enough, not being dependent on people
- This level of contentment is something that Paul has learned
 - Learning contentment will require all kinds of different situations (from good, to mundane and difficult)

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

PHILIPPIANS 4:11



**THE MIND OF CONTENTMENT IS TO
FIND SATISFACTION IN WHAT YOU
HAVE, IN WHO GOD IS AND IN WHAT
HE HAS GIVEN YOU.**

3. The mind of contentment isn't focused on circumstances (v. 12)

- Like Paul, you will also have seasons in the mountaintops, and also the valleys.
 - Regardless of his circumstances, Paul could be content, and so can you.
- Our circumstances do not dictate our contentment.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12

4. The mind of contentment finds its strength to be content, in Christ alone (v. 13)

- What is the secret to Biblical contentment?
 - Jesus Christ and the strength He gives
- Christ is the never-ending well that provides the strength we need to be content!
- That doesn't mean Paul can do whatever he wants and Jesus will bless him
 - He could be infused with strength that only Christ can give... to help him find contentment, to faithfully follow and trust God's plan and provision

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

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



HAVING CHRIST > ANY SITUATION WE COULD FIND OURSELVES IN.

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” -Phil. 3:8-9a

4. The mind of contentment finds its strength to be content, in Christ alone (v. 13)

- Contentment is actually the by-product of distress.
- The promise we see here is that God will give us the strength to faithfully endure the difficulties that will arise.
 - Rely on the sustaining grace of Christ, knowing wgho God is and knowing what is true.
 - This is the secret to contentment.
- The mind of contentment finds its strength to be content, in Christ alone.

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

5. The mind of contentment is focused on the needs of others (v. 14-18)

- Even as the Philippian church battled poverty and trial, they still demonstrated Christ-like contentment, because they sacrificially gave.
 - They were partners in the Gospel
- Even after Paul left Philippi, they continued to give (v. 15-16)

14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

PHILIPPIANS 4:14

5. The mind of contentment is focused on the needs of others (v. 14-18)

- Their gift brought Paul joy, not because of its material benefit, but because of the spiritual benefit it was to them.
- Paul wants to see them continue to abound in the spiritual fruit that is produced from their sacrificial generosity.
 - Prov. 19:17, 28:27, Luke 6, Acts 20:35
- If you only focus on yourself, then you will only be content when your circumstances are exactly how you want them to be.
 - When have your circumstances ever been truly perfect?

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

PHILIPPIANS 4:17

5. The mind of contentment is focused on the needs of others (v. 14-18)

- To have the mind of contentment means that you're focused on the needs of others, rather than yourself. Even if what we have isn't much.
- Paul is thankful and content
 - The gift he has received is more than enough!
 - Their gift was an offering of worship unto God
 - He saw their gift as a sacrificial, act of worship

18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:18

6. The mind of contentment ultimately looks to our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ for true provision (v. 19–23)

- As God has provided for Paul, God will provide for their needs
- Sometimes what we think we need, is more so what we want
 - “*your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*” -Mat. 6:8)
 - Because of this, we should trust him
- Can you rejoice with others, when you don't have what you want?

18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:18

6. The mind of contentment ultimately looks to our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ for true provision (v. 19–23)

- If He has supplied us Christ – then we never have to doubt that God can provide for our needs!
 - Supply means: to fill to the full, abounding, liberally supplied, to be at a point where nothing shall be in want
- When we have the right understanding of who our God is, we can trust that He will supply all our needs
 - How can we know?
 - He gave us Jesus Christ! (John 3:16)

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19



THE FULLEST REVELATION OF GOD'S GLORIOUS WEALTH IS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE.

"The riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col. 2:9)

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:8)

"Who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32)



**IF YOU FEEL AS IF YOU ARE LACKING
IN ANY WAY, REMEMBER WHAT
YOU HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST!**

Our response is to have the mind of contentment and God's glory!

"To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." -Phil 3:20

6. The mind of contentment ultimately looks to our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ for true provision (v. 19–23)

- The word *household* includes Christians in the highest officials, even to those in prison
 - These Christians have found ultimate victory and wealth in Jesus Christ alone.
 - Therefore, they have everything they need; they are content.
 - No matter who or what their circumstances dictated, it didn't change whether or not they were victorious.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

PHILIPPIANS 4:21-22



FANNY CROSBY
1820-1915

Image from Christianity Today, 2008

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“God will answer your prayers better than you think. Of course, one will not always get exactly what he has asked for...We all have sorrows and disappointments, but one must never forget that, if commended to God, they will issue in good...His own solution is far better than any we could conceive. If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind...for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Saviour.”

Fanny Crosby

— ”



**TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST IS
TO HAVE A MIND OF CONTENTMENT**

*What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer
There is no more for Heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me"*



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