

Title ideas:
The Joy of Knowing God's Supply!
The Joy of Knowing Christ's Strength!

Philippians 4:10-23 - The Joy of Knowing God's Supply!

Scriptures:

Proverbs 22:9 -

He who has a generous eye will be blessed,
For he gives of his bread to the poor.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 -

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at

5463 -

last you care for me has flourished again; though

5426 – respect, regard

330 – renewed, revived – 'blossom again'

you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

170 – have no chance

Notes:

Paul interpreted their generous gift as a sign of the Philippians' continuing faith.

Remembered generosity is always a source of joy and rejoicing. If you pause and think you might remember something generous someone did. What do you feel when you think of it?

Paul had received a gift of support from the Philippians. The gift was carried by Epaphroditus, who became very sick in the process.

Generosity is a sign of faith (Prov. 22:9).

'you lacked opportunity' – We are not told what the lack of opportunity was. Paul wanted them to know that he knew how they cared and if they could have sent support sooner, they would have. It is likely that Paul included Philippi when he told the Corinthians about the generosity of the Macedonian churches (2 Cor. 8:1-2). From within their 'deep poverty' they were generous.

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 - 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.

Hebrews 13:5-6 - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say:

"The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I

5304 – poverty, lack

have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

3129 – be taught

3739 -

842 –
2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Tim. 6:6; 8; Heb. 13:5

Notes:

Paul wants them to know that his joy over their generosity is not about what it means for him.

On the surface it sounds like Paul is describing the highest virtue of stoic philosophy – contentment.

"The Stoic Seneca put it this way: 'the happy man is content with his present lot, no matter what it is, and is reconciled to his circumstances.'" (Hughes, 2013) page 185

Contented: feeling or showing satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation.

"Contentment is one of the flowers of heaven, and if we would have it, it must be cultivated." (Spurgeon, 2015) page 155

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I know how to be abased, and **I** know how

5013 – 'live humbly' -
to be abased v. — to
be or become in a
lower condition of
life; especially in
regard to the basic
necessities.

to abound. Everywhere and in all things

4052 – 'live in
prosperity'

I have learned both to be full and to be hungry,

3453 – to learn a
secret

both to abound and to suffer need.

Notes:

Paul had experienced highs and lows of life that few people will ever experience (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

"Paul had learned to experience contentment in the extremes of deprivation from hunger to homelessness to being in rags to beatings to labor and exhaustion to intense humiliation." (Hughes, 2013)

Paul had freely shared the things he had struggled with and the tribulations he had endured, he was less forthcoming about the abundances he had enjoyed. It can be harder to learn contentment in prosperity than it is in poverty.

'I have learned' – This is a single Greek word that means to learn a secret. Paul chose this word to impart a specific understanding for contentment. Christian contentment is not something that can be learned apart from Christ.

Scriptures:

John 15:5-8 - I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Colossians 1:28-29 - Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

13 I can do all things through Christ who

1722 – “en” - in

strengthens me.

1743 – cause to
be able
John 15:5

Notes:

Instead of self-sufficiency, Paul is calling them to God-sufficiency.

“Contentment is rooted in the eternal God rather than in the temporal self.” (Hughes, 2013) page 185

Contentment is impossible to the people who operate independently of God. The more dependent we are upon God, the more contentment we will experience.

As with all Scripture, a verse like this one must be interpreted based on its context. The context of verse 13 is verses 11 and 12.

It does not say that I can do whatever I want or set my mind to. Paul is saying that in whatever circumstances God places him, he can be content and do what God wills him to do. This is an expression of utter dependence upon and trust in God.

Paul is claiming God’s supernatural power to do whatever God wants him to do (Col. 1:28-29). Paul is using all of his energy and strength to do what God wants him to do but it is the strength that Christ provides that gets the work done.

‘through Christ’ – the Greek word translated ‘through’ would be better translated as ‘in’. Whatever comes our way, whether good or bad, easy or hard, flourishing or suffering, in Christ we can do it and can be content while we are doing it.

What does it mean when we are not content?

No matter what ups and downs we experience in life, Christ remains the same and if we are in Christ, we can be content and do whatever He sets before us.

Scriptures:

Philippians 1:3-4 - I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now...

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

14 Nevertheless **you** have done well that

4790 – very well

you shared in my distress.

4790 – associate with, share with, be connected with

2347 – trouble, oppression, tribulation

Notes:

By being generous, the Philippians were partnering with Paul in his ministry of sharing the gospel (Phil. 1:3-4). We can't all go and do the work of the ministry, but we can be generous with what God has given us to those who do go.

'...you shared in...' uses the same root that we get the word fellowship and communion from.

The Philippians were sharing with Paul's ministry and support him even though they were going through their own trials.

Jesus said when Zacchaeus was generous that it was a sign of a regenerate heart. Paul tells us that generous with missions and ministry is evidence in partnership with the gospel.

"What we do with our resources is a window into our souls." (Hughes, 2013) page 192

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 11:9 - And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 - For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

15 Now **you** **Philippians** know also that in the

Notes:

While in the rich city of Corinth, Paul would accept no support from the proud Corinthians (2 Cor. 11:9), but he did from the humble Philippians (1 Cor. 8:3-5).

beginning of the  gospel, when **I** departed from

Macedonia, no church  shared with **me** concerning

2841 -

giving and receiving but **you** only.

1394 - the act of giving

3028 -

Scriptures:

16 For even in Thessalonica **you** sent **aid** once and

Notes:

again for **my** necessities.

5532 - what is needed

Scriptures:

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit

1390 - present

Notes:

Paul wants to make sure they don't interpret his words as call to give more.

that abounds to your account.

4121 – become
more and more

3056 -

Scriptures:
Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having

4052 -
oversupplied

4137 - satisfied

Notes:
A generous heart is pleasing to God and fulfils (Rom. 12:1).

"What we do for each other is to be done as a 'sacrifice pleasing to God.'" (Dunnam, 1982)

received from Epaphroditus the things sent from

you, a sweet-smelling aroma,

2175 - pleasing
aroma

3744 - odor

an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

1184 - pleasing,
welcome,
appropriate

2378 - offering to
God

2101 -

Scriptures:

19 And my God shall supply all your need

4137 – fill
completely
Psa. 23:1; 2 Cor.
9:8

5532 -

according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

4149 - wealth

1391 – splendor,
brightness

Notes:

This is a promise to those who live generous lives. Just as God had provided for Paul through the Philippians, God would provide for the Philippians 'according to His riches'. This is not promised to the selfish Christian.

God will meet your need but not your greed. Just because you want something, doesn't mean God is obligated to give it to you. And just because you think you need something; doesn't mean you actually do.

God will provide everything you need to live a life in Christ that glorifies God.

When you believe God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, you are better able to be content.

Scriptures:

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever

Notes:
Doxology. The thought of the Philippians generosity in Christ and God's gracious provision through Christ causes Paul to break out in a doxology.

and ever. Amen.

Scriptures:

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren

Notes:

who are with me greet you.

Scriptures:

Philippians 2:9-11 -
Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

22 All the saints greet you, but especially those

Notes:

'Caesar's household' – Paul's ministry was reaching right into the very heart of the wicked emperor's home. There were some in Caesar's household who had bowed the knee to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It reminds us that someday everyone will do that (Phil. 2:9-11). And because the Philippians had been generous with Paul, they could rejoice that they shared in the work.

who are of Caesar's household.

Your circumstances are not a problem to the God who can meet every need out of the riches of His infinite supply.

Scriptures:

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

Notes:

all. Amen.

5532 -

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