

The Secret Of Contentment – Philippians 4:10-23

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The Apostle Paul was a _____. Instead of having spiritual ups and downs as the situation changed, he went right on, working and serving Jesus. His personal references at the close of this letter indicate that he was not the victim of circumstances but the 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).



In this chapter, Paul names three wonderful spiritual resources that make us adequate and give us contentment...

I. The Overruling Providence of God (4:10)

The word “providence” comes from two Latin words: *pro*, meaning “before,” and *video*, meaning “to see.” God’s providence simply means that God sees to it beforehand. It is the working of God in advance to arrange circumstances and situations for the fulfilling of His purposes.

The best illustration for the meaning of providence comes from the story of _____ and his brothers in Genesis 37-50.

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. (Genesis 50:20)

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

II. The Unfailing Power Of God (4:11-13)

Paul is quick to let his friends know that he is not complaining! His happiness does not depend on _____ or things; his joy comes from something deeper, something apart from either poverty or prosperity.

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 NASB)

*"I am ready for anything through the strength of the One who lives within me,"
(Philippians 4:13 J.B Philipps)*

*"I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the
strength and power." (Philippians 4:13 New Living Bible)*

It was the power of Christ within him that gave him spiritual contentment. Jesus teaches this lesson in John 15 with his illustration of the vine and branches. "Without Me, ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). "I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency" (Phil 4:13 amp).

III. The Unchanging Promise Of God (4:14-20)

Paul thanks the church at Philippi for their generous gift. He compares their giving to three very familiar things.

- 1) A _____ tree (v10)
- 2) An investment (v14-17)
- 3) A Sacrifice (v18)

Contentment comes from adequate resources. Our resources are the providence of God, the power of God, and the promises of God. These resources made Paul sufficient for every demand of life, and they can make us sufficient too.