

Philippians 4:10–13

“Joy in Christ Powers Contentment and Generosity”

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¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Main Idea: As the apostle sets an example for them of having our thought-life shaped by the virtue and praise-worthiness of the Word of God, he moves on to compliment their generosity regardless of his own contentment. Why? Because both come by the same strength from the same Christ in whom both Paul and the Philippians rejoice.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Lord. We thank you and praise you that you have given yourself for us, so that we might receive according to your worthiness and that part of what you have earned for us. Is that your joy might be in us? We bless your name and this is means by what you strengthen us.

The joy of the Lord is our strength and we pray that guys, we read and think about a little bit of how that works out and verse fruit in our lives that your spirit would be helping us and understanding your word that he would be doing the work in us of producing that which we are thinking about that, which we're studying that you would be glorified, Lord Jesus by the, the increase of the fruit of your work, as you work in us.

Also, we ask in your name. Amen. Philippians chapter 4, verses 10 through 13. These are God's words but I rejoice in the Lord greatly that. Now it lasts your care for me. Has flourished again though. You surely did care but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need for.

I have learned in whatever state I am to be content. I know how to be a base and I know how to abound everywhere. And in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry first to a bound and to suffer. Need, I can do all things through Christ.

Who strengthens me?

Now, this far the reading of God's inspired and an errant word,

The Fiji rugby team and the Fiji is a tiny little tiny little country. And it is a country that still has still has enough of a memory of the gospel coming and, and transforming their nation that the, you know, after the fig Fiji rugby team defeated New Zealand to win their second gold medal in a row, which is the second gold medal in the history of that nation, all of the men and you know, rugby players are big girly men and they dropped to their knees and they all for a prayer thanksgiving and then they give up get up and they sing right out of the book of Revelation.

We have overcome, we have overcome by the blood of the lamb, and the Word of the Lord, we have overcome, and they sing it in their own language. And then they sing it in English. And, you know, just look up, you know, Fiji rugby team singing that we have overcome, you'll find a bunch of incident of times that they have done this, but even more than just hearing a bunch of giant men, sing right out of the book of Revelation that the top of their lung.

One of the things that exciting me was to find out that they also end the matches that they lose the same way on their knees prayer of Thanksgiving, to God, stand up and sing out of the book of Revelation after defeating Rugby. Because at the end of the day, even if you're a professional rugby player rugby, doesn't matter.

We have overcome, we have overcome by the blood of the lamb, and the word of the Lord, we have overcome, and that was in God's providence. To just bring me across that and week, in which I was studying to open this passage with you. This afternoon was very moving to me, just in, in the providence of God.

Because one of the most abused texts in the Bible is at the end of our passage. I can do all things through Christ. Who strengthens me? Now I wish it was well used in as often as it used because how very much

Now very much we is believers need to learn, not just how to suffer and lack Christianly where Christ is enough for us and we are content and rejoicing even in our lacking.

But even to abound Christianly where, in the midst of our abundance Christ is our delight, our contentment, and the cause of our rejoicing. So, as we come into, this passage is been. He's just been setting himself as an example. Or reminding them that God has has graciously. Worked in him.

So that he is an example of having that our inner thought, life shaped by all of the true and noble, and just, and pure and lovely, and good, repute, and virtuous, and praiseworthy things in particularly from the Bible. That since the Bible is our standard for judging all of those things.

And then he goes immediately into the things which you have learned and received and heard so that he has, he is taught them and his commanded them. And he is preached it to them and scenes. So he's also noted to them, these do and the god of peace will be with you but he gives an example of what it looks like to have heart and mind shaped by the description.

Part of that example is to be content in in every circumstance and he commends them as well because the same place that his contentment has come from is a place from which they're generosity has come from. And we find we find out at the end, I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

So the way that that verse 12 sets up verse 13, or the verse 11 and 12 rather set up verse 13. He says, I have learned and whatever state I am to be content. And and we who have longed to be content and who have seen or heard glimpses of what Christian contentment looks like in others and have greatly desired it.

You know, someone tells you they've just read for the whatever time. Jeremiah borrows rare jewel of Christian contentment, they're telling you again. How how much of a help has been done, you race out to get it by the time we get it, by the time we get to the end of verse 11, we're already saying, well, I want to learn that.

I wish I was, I could follow the apostle and the way that he's been urging me to do throughout this this letter and into contentment. And to happiness, I would love to be content and this is I know how to be a base and I know how to abound in other words, you know, how to be content when I'm brought low.

And I'm know how to intent when the Lord makes me prosperous everywhere. And in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry both to abound and to suffer need. And so, he's really kind of stretched this out. Hasn't he? And at a lot of information in verse 12, to what he said at the end of verse 11, but he is he's as it were tempting us.

A luring us getting us to increasing urging us to increase our desire for this contentment, then he gives us the key. What is the key? I can do all things through Christ to strengthen me. The immediately he has us, has us thinking back to chapter three, and then tire discussion of how nothing that we have done is our worthiness before.

God only what Christ has done, nothing else that we could get, has has anything in it, to be compared to the value of Christ, but it's worth losing everything in order to have him. And so Christ strengthens him to this contentment because Christ is all that he needs to rest upon and all that he needs to rejoice in Jesus, strengthens us through and this is my my favorite weight training program in all of reality.

He strengthens us through enjoying him. He strengthens us through resting upon him. He drinks strengthens us through rejoicing in him so he he pulls that that discussion from chapter three into what he's been saying in verse 11 and 12 with the punchline. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me and even if you have the critical text and sorry for that, but even if you have the critical text, there's no other him who the him could be.

It is I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. And so you can see now how, what is the proper way to be a based to be brought low to suffer to lack? Wants to be content with Christ and there is a proper way to abound and to be full and it is to be satisfied only and fully with Christ and that's not just where his contentment has come from.

Is it? It's also where they're generosity has come from? I rejoice in the Lord greatly that. Now at last your care for me has flourished again though. Surely you did care but you lacked opportunity and he's gonna go on and next week's passage and well examine little examine it more and more detail at that point to talk about how it was the the grace that is in them more than the gift and the fruit that abounds to them more than the gift.

He's recognizing that they're giving to him came from the same place that his contentment became from. So here he is, he's content with his circumstances in the gift shows up and he rejoices in the Lord that they have. They've had this generous spirit and you know this passage challenges us with our contentment and with our generosity because it works in the opposite direction, doesn't it that if resting

in Christ and rejoicing in Christ is the ground of our contentment is what produces our contentment then.

We're when we're not discontented or sorry when we are discontented, we're not when we're not content. Does that not indicate to us the strength and maturity of our resting in the Lord and our rejoicing in him? And when some ways it's even more difficult when you abound because when you're really enjoying the good gifts, it's sometimes hard to distinguish between your enjoyment between whether or not your enjoying the gift, or the goodness of the giver.

And that's why it's such a help that in this passage contentment isn't the only thing that's coming out of resting in Jesus. And rejoicing in Jesus, Paul's contentment comes out of that. But their generosity comes out of that too. And so this generous spirit that that he describes here, that the, you know, it's not like their care was there and then the care went away.

And now that the care is back, right? He make his careful to say, at the end of verse 10, though, you surely did care. So there wasn't like a flagging or a lack or a backsliding in their caring. What was missing opportunity? And so he's saying you Philippians are so opportunistic.

You all are just generous whenever you have the chance soon as you saw an opportunity to be generous with me immediately, you took it When you didn't have the opportunity. We're missing out. That's the sense of verse 10. And so that helps us because a lot of us to be frank.

We've never really been very needy or needy at all. I mean, some of you children, the Lord has given you parents to who he has worked in their in their hearts and they value you as made in his image. And they value you as covenant seed, the the children that are part of his promises to your parents and they treasure you for Christ's sake.

And they they see the duty that God has given and providing for you. And they are eager that you would never know any lack what so ever. And we are sometimes convicted that we haven't been spiritually the same diligence and abundance in our spiritual provision to you as we have in our material provision.

So some of you really have not ever had lack or need you just had unfulfilled covetousness that you thought was lacking your need, but you do have the opportunity to be generous generous with, at least your time, with your prayers, with your thoughts, and even even with your with your substance.

And so that's another way that we can ask the Lord to, to help us. See our resting in him and our rejoicing in him coming out. And if we find that we are not really opportunistically generous looking for chances to give to others. Then we know where to get that strength and how he's strengthened us.

It is Christ and he strengthens us by making us count everything else. But together as rubbish worth losing for his sake. May the Lord, give us such strength and may we never ever abuse this frequently. Abused text. You know those who overcame by the blood of the lamb and the word of the Lord.

The immediately proceeding verse is they loved? Not their lives unto death. And so it may be in the greatest loss. The loss literally of everything in this world that you end up, getting to sing, we have overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of the Lord.

Let's pray.

Oh, Lord, Jesus. We pray that by your spirit you would make your self our strength. That the joy of the Lord would be our strength. That the devil himself would be unable to tempt us because of how content we are with you just as you modeled your own contentment with with the your father and every word that proceeds from the mouth from the mouth of God, grant to us that you would be our atom that we would be the new humanity that has come from.

You not like our first parents who are not contented, but who ate the fruit. And so we pray that resting in you and rejoicing in you and having you would be our strength that you would make us able to be content with little or content with much and make us opportunistically generous we ask for we ask these things in your name.

Amen.