

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. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 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. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:10-13

Contentment Is Not Dependent On Circumstance

The Christian can have contentment whether things are going good or bad.

For godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Are your present circumstances pulling you towards or pushing you away from Jesus?

Contentment Is Learned

Learning contentment is part of the maturing process for the believer.

Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Are you allowing the Lord to mold and shape you through your circumstances?

Contentment Is Found in Christ

The Christian already has the ultimate treasure, and one day will receive it in full. If your focus isn't on Jesus you will always be discontent.

Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

Is your focus on Jesus or on your circumstances?

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.
And you Philippians yourselves know that
in the beginning of the gospel, when I
left Macedonia, no church entered into
partnership with me in giving and receiving,
except you only. Even in Thessalonica you
sent me help for my needs once and again.

Philippians 4:14-16

Generously Giving

One of the marks of a disciple at Salem is that they are generously giving. The Philippians give us a great example.

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints — and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5

Are you submitted to the Lord in every area of your life?

Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 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. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:17-20

When we give we show we are bearing fruit.

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith.

Philippians 1:25

Are you progressing in giving?

Our giving is an investment.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

What is in your IEA?

Our giving is an act of worship.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

What patterns are you following?

Our giving shows where our trust lies.

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' Or 'What shall we drink?' Or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

Matthew 6:31-32

Are you giving your worry and anxiety about money to the Lord?

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philippians 4:21-23