



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **The Secret Strength of Joyful Living**
Series: **The Radical Guide to Joy**
Text: **Philippians 4:10-20**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **November 16, 2025**

HOW TO BECOME A THERMOSTAT CHRISTIAN?

1. SEE GOD'S HAND IN YOUR _____

*I **rejoiced greatly** in the Lord that at last **you renewed your concern for me**. Indeed, **you were concerned**, but **you had no opportunity to show it**. (Php 4:10).*

*But I think it is necessary to send back to you **Epaphroditus**, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, **whom you sent to take care of my needs**. (Php 2:25).*

*I have received full payment and **have more than enough**. I am amply supplied, **now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent**. (Php 4:18).*

PROVIDENCE - God sees _____ and works _____ —arranging circumstances to fulfill His purposes without violating human freedom.

John Wesley believed God is “**intimately at work in every _____ that occurs in space and time.**”

God's Providence does not mean God ordains or causes very human action.

- Humans remain free, capable of _____ good or evil.
- God does not _____ or undo the freedom He created.
- Providence is not God treating humans like _____.
- It is God working in, through, and around human choices.

*“You **were concerned**, but you lacked opportunity... now at last **you renewed your concern**...” (10)*

- God stirred the _____
- God opened the _____
- God respected their _____
- And God's providence was all over the _____

*“Cast all your anxiety on him because **he cares for you**.” (1 Peter 5:7)*

2. LEARN _____ THROUGH CHRIST'S POWER

I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned to be content** whatever the circumstances. 12 **I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.** I have **learned the secret of being content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (Php 4:11–12).

- _____ - not immediate, not automatic, not natural
- _____ - resources *INSIDE* not *OUTSIDE*. “CONTAINED”

Paul graduated from the _____ with this lesson.

“Circumstances don’t determine my contentment, Christ does.”

3. GIVE _____ IN GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, **not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;** 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, **you sent me aid more than once** when I was in need. (Php 4:14–16).

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what **I desire is that more be credited to your account.** 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. **They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.** (Php 4:17–18).

YOUR GIVING IS . . .

- FRAGRANT _____
- ACCEPTABLE _____
- PLEASING TO _____

YOUR GIVING IS NOT . . .

- PAYING CHURCH _____
- FUNDING _____
- COVERING _____

4. TRUST _____ IN GOD'S PROMISE

And **my God will meet all your needs** according to **the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.** (Php 4:19).

Paul says, “you met one of my needs, but God will meet all of yours. You gave out of scarcity, but God supplies out of His riches.”

To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
(Php 4:20).