

“The Epistle of Joy (Part 15 – Philippians 4:14-23)”

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:10-23, “*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. ¹⁴ Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. ¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. ²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household. ²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*”

Philippians 4:19 is such a great verse, applicable to all situations. But when you consider that Paul was a Missionary who had given himself fully to Kingdom work, and the Philippians supported Paul and involved themselves in the work of the Lord as well, Paul is essentially saying: *God is going to take care of you and amply supply what you need!* When our greatest concern is for the things that God cares most about, our basic necessities get automatically taken care of in the mix. Something supernatural happens when we prioritize the ways and work of God over our own lives and needs. God meets the needs of Christians who are meeting needs. God gives to us so that He can flow through us. This text outlines six things we need to do if we want God to supply all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus:

1. **Have a concern for others** (4:10). The ministry is all about people. Jesus came to seek and save the lost and He has mercy on those in need. We do well to concern ourselves with the things that Jesus is most concerned about.
2. **Find your contentment in the Lord** (4:11-13). We will always have needs, but we need to be satisfied with what we have and with what we don’t have. When you are content in the situation you are in you will be God’s available instrument to meet the needs of others.
3. **Stay committed to Gospel work** (4:14-16). Put God’s work and will ahead of your own needs. Don’t keep putting off sharing in the troubles of doing the Lord’s work until your affairs are in order and your life is settled.
4. **Have credit with the Lord** (4:17-20). When we offer gifts and deeds to the Lord and others our heavenly account gets credited. We can’t take it with us to heaven, but we can send it on ahead. Giving isn’t about losing something, it’s about gaining something we will never

lose. Always be mindful and appreciative of the treasure that others have deposited in your life along the way.

5. **Exist to see God glorified** (4:20). This is the reason for our existence both in this life and in eternity. Doing things for our Master in the Lord's vineyard is such a thrill when it results in our Father in heaven being praised and glorified!
6. **Be a greeter and celebrate the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ** (4:20-23). Greet others and celebrate when the Gospel reaches people formerly thought unreachable.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Do you have a concern for others?
2. Do you find your contentment in the Lord?
3. Are you involved with Gospel work?
4. Do you have credit with the Lord?
5. Do you exist to glorify God?
6. Are you a greeter?
7. Do you celebrate the incredible results brought about by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ?