

CONTENTMENT

“Joy for the Journey”

Vs. 10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

Vs. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 13 I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:10-13 NLT

“Grasping The Elusive Quality of Contentment”

Where do we find it?

Grasping the Elusive quality of Contentment

It is not found in:

-other people,
-circumstances,
-just the “super” Christian.

It is found in:

-a person
-in weakness,
-and through a learning process

Looking in the wrong places ...

Contentment will always remain elusive ...

..as long as we think it is found in other people.

“You had been concerned but **you had no opportunity** to show it...” (4:10)

Looking in the wrong places...

Contentment will always remain elusive

**...as long as we think it is found in right
circumstances.**

“Learned to be content **whatever the circumstances ...**”

Looking in the wrong places...

Contentment will always remain elusive ...

**...as long as we think it is found only in
“super” Christians.**

“ ... I have learned the secret of being content” (4:12)

“O God, my strength, if I fix my happiness on anything less stable than the heavens, less sufficient than You, sooner or later I will lose it. If my life twines around any earthly prop, some time or other my prop will be plucked up, my poor life will be torn, and its sap will bleed out of it. Therefore I choose to entwine the tendrils of my life around you.”

Adopted from Alexander McClaren

Looking in the right place ...

Contentment is found in a person.

*“I rejoice . . . **in the Lord**” ... “I can do everything **through Christ** ...” (4:10, 13)*

Looking in the right place ...

Contentment is found through helplessness.

“I ...have learned” “I ...have learned” (4:11,12)

“...a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me ...Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.”

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect **in weakness** ...for the sake of Christ, then I am content with **weakness**, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For **when I am weak**, then I am strong.’”

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV

Looking in the right place ...

Contentment is found through a learning process

“I have learned to be content ...I have learned the secret of being content” (4:11,12)

'The frustration is unbearable. The anger is rage. ... Maybe I should break out the rocking chair and reminisce on the career that was. Maybe this is how my book ends. Maybe Father Time has defeated me.'

Kobe Bryant



“Contentment is the deep rooted confidence that Christ is sufficient for all my needs and He will never leave me.”

“And now, just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust Him too for each day’s problems, live in vital union with Him.

Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done for you.”

Colossians 2:6,7 NLT



“And for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

The Last Battle, C.S. Lewis



**“You know,
sometimes it is
the artists task
to find out how
much music
you can still
make with what
you have left.”**

**Yitzhak
Perlman**

“Contentment is the deep rooted confidence that Christ is sufficient for all my needs and He will never leave me.”

