

The Secret of Being Content is Christ

Philippians 4:10-14

Date July 4th, 2021

INTRO: Have **you** ever been **discontent**?

- **Why were you discontent?**
- **What did you do when you were discontent?**
- **What did **you** think you needed to be content?**
- **Is Christ enough?**

It is my prayer
today that you see God's truth, love, and promise.

CONTEXT:

- **BOOK of PHILIPPIANS (Paul, people, situation)**
- Prayers and encouragement to live, hope, be like Christ.
- Christ strengths in difficult times
- God's provision

(Walk with me as we unpack the secrets to being content in Christ.)

BIG IDEA:

Christ is the answer to being content.

Talk about previous chapters

Ch 1. Thankfulness and prayer, Christ is preached, To live is Christ, suffering for Christ.

Ch 2. Unity in the church, be humble, light bearers

Ch 3. All for Christ reminders, Press toward the goal, heavenly citizenship

Ch 4. Be United, joyful, and in Prayer

(We are going to unpack 8 secrets from today's passage in Philipians.)

TEXT: ¹⁰ *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.* ¹¹ *Not that I speak [a]from want, for I have learned to be [b]content in whatever circumstances I am.* ¹² *I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.* ¹³ *I can do all things [c]through Him who strengthens me.* ¹⁴ *Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.*

PREVIEW: Here are the 8 secrets to BEing content in life....

1. **Celebration** in Christ
2. **Communion** in Christ
3. **Condition** in Christ
4. **Consistent** in Christ
5. **Capacity** in Christ
6. **Covenant** in Christ
7. **Competence** in Christ
8. **Commitment** in Christ

Secret 1: Celebration in Christ / Rejoicing in the Lord (v 10)

Illustration:

- a. Have you ever been a part of a celebration that changed your life?
- b. Have you been a part of a celebration that happened in someone else's life how did you feel?
- c. How did they feel?
- d. I bet you could not wait to share the news with everyone.
- e. Preschool teacher for the last 8 years (story about children's birthday)
- f. Day of celebration even when it was not their birthday.
- g. Did it stop them from rejoicing no! In fact, they had a get to attitude.
- h. Do we have that same heart/attitude?
- i. In celebrating there is no bitterness or jealous.
- j. A heart filled with love and hope.

Explanation

1. Paul expression "**But I rejoiced**" is an expression of his heart his **attitude toward Christ**.
 - a. "But" used a preposition, without lack, trusting in Christ.
 - b. It is not a circumstantial rejoicing... it is a no matter what rejoicing.
 - c. Rejoicing is action, something that is alive!
2. Notice Paul's choice of words he uses when expressing who it is, he rejoiced **"in"** its Christ. He is celebrating being in Christ.
 - a. Paul **rejoicing is not based on what he has done or what others have done but wholly on who Christ is! It is not works based. (No bragging rights!)**
 - b. **This rejoicing screams show and tell! I pray you see it!**
 - c. Paul is not faking it until you make it, he is living it out.
 - d. **(Share when I did not have to fake it 2020-2021 miscarried)**
 - e. No cake walks, put my faith, hope, and trust in Christ.

f. (Psalm 92:4, For You make me glad by your deeds, LORD; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.) (A Work of God)

3. Look at "The" it is Jesus the Christ, the only God who brings joy and peace to Paul.

- a. Christ is joy and peace.
- b. Christ gives joy freely to those who are born-again.
- c. The Christ satisfies His creation, He makes our hearts content when we seek after Him. (**Matthew 6:33** Seek first the kingdom of God).
- d. If your heart is not content, why? Is there any unrepented sin that has tangled you? Life failures?
- e. Why aren't Christians content? It comes down to what do we want?
- f. (Prayer for change hearts and attitudes)

4. Look at the word "Lord" the Messiah Who has all authority and power.

- a. **John 1:1** Lord over creation
- b. **Matthew 8:26** Lord over nature
- c. **1 Peter 3:15** sanctify Him as Lord in your heart.
- d. Paul is declaring making it known to us it is the Lord who does the work! (**John 6:29** "Jesus answered them and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.")

Ephesians 1:22-23 "Our Lord has put all things in subjection under His feet and Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Qty of time?)

Application

- a. "Rejoiced" is a I get to attitude!
- b. A heart to worship Christ and a love for His church.
- c. Our rejoicing is not based on situations or what we think we can receive but solely in Christ.

- d. Rejoice is a continued celebration of/to Christ for what He has done.
- e. The word "in" brings me peace/safety it lets me know I am in the family of God.
- f. The word "the" holds weight do not miss it. "The" points to Christ. Examine your life is your "the" does it point to Christ, or does it point to the worldly things that you think will keep you content.
 - Is He/Christ Lord of your life?
 - Not sure cry out to God and ask Him to do a miracle.

Church we cannot allow anything, or anyone take the place of where Christ should be reigning. **1 peter 3:14-15 tells us to set Christ apart as Lord in our hearts. Take heed to that command by living walking out that command it allows us to witness and share the hope that we have in Christ.**

: (It is in the celebrating in Christ that we find contentment and now we move on to our second point)

Secret 2. Communion in Christ ^(v10b)

that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

Illustration:

Do you remember a time where you so desperately wanted to help someone but did not have the means to do so? How was your heart?

Did you have a yearning to help? I bet you said to if you got another opportunity, you would be ready.

Explanation

- a. Do you see the koinonia in verse 10b
- b. The church at Philippi so desperately wanted to help their fellow brother Paul but could not because of different circumstances? Paul acknowledges their efforts.
- c. Let us unpack the word "revive" when we hear or think about the word revive, we think of something that has **regain consciousness**.
- d. The church leaders **remembered** their brother in **his suffering**.
- e. It was in their heart to be there and support Paul by any means.
- f. The church at Philippi concerns were not one sided but they exemplified what Christ has called us to, regard others higher than yourself.
- g. "Lacked opportunity" **not used as a short coming of sin**, but he uses it as a roadblock of some sort.
- h. The church fights. They wanted to be a part of what God was doing.

Application

- a. **Always be praying. Always be ready. Always be fluent.** We do not have to do anything fancy but just trust and obey Christ commands. (**2 greatest commandments speak on it.**)
- b. Revive, do not allow life trails stop you from fighting. God answers prayer! God is quick to keep His promises.
- c. In **Philippians 2:4** it says "not looking to your own interest but each of you the interest of the others" this is what total surrender looks like. I challenge all of us to examine what are our concerns and do they align with the word, will, and way of God?
- d. Do not let anything stop you from being Christ ambassadors. (India story trails and overcoming.)

- e. We see in the scripture that the church at Philippi was hindered in a way because they did not see Paul nor send him any gifts.
- f. Paul excuses what they did and showed them forgiveness.
- g. What Paul does here really make us examine what celebrating truly is. Paul rejoiced that the Lord called them back He (Christ) woke them up.
- h. Do we see now rejoicing looks different when we look at from a biblical view?

(Do you see we need to celebrate, commune, and now condition ourselves in Christ.)

Secret 3. Condition in Christ / Know how to be ^(v11)

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances.

Illustration:

Does the condition matter of how you are being. If something is not going the way you planned, how do you respond?

Explanation

- a. Paul is making it clear that he is not speaking from want.
- b. Often when people share their conditions or circumstances people may assume their asking for something, that is not Paul's case here.
- c. Paul is depending on the providence of God to provide for him
(**Matthew 6:9-13** The Lord's prayer this is my daily bread.)
- d. Paul was satisfied with what he had been given. **Did not have a desire to want. (Growing in your walking)**
- e. Talk about being content in Christ, that is grace to accommodate ourselves to every condition of life, having an equal tempter mind through it all.

- f. Look at **"I have learned" that is an experience** he has not forgotten but is remarkably familiar with. **Experiences** teach us things that you will know only if you go through it.
- g. **"Be"** let's not confuse "be" with lazy.
- h. The life of Christian trust Christ for all provision.
- i. Paul is **"content"** he is at peace or in other words fulfilled not because of what he is doing but in who Christ is.
- j. It is **worth it. Live** for Christ! He knows **Christ is real!** (Come and see we found the Christ...**John 1:41**) **"He found first his own brother Simon and "said to him, "We have found the Messiah."**

Application

- a. Do you find yourself in want? We can find ourselves wanting a lot and often the things we want are not healthy. Does it produce fruit? This is how we determine if our want is glorifying to Christ is the want only for you and for you to get gain? If it is, run to Jesus and ask God to work in us His will and good pleasure in us.
- b. *Christ allows us to go through/ it is hardships sanctifying work.*
- c. That cannot be the heart of a Christ follower. We must deny ourselves.
- d. **"Be"** sounds so simple to do but can be difficult when we are not trusting. Be is identify with Christ likeness!
- e. Content is not the same as lazy. Content is being satisfied in Christ alone.

(Secret number 4 consistent, how does this help us in our lives as Christians? Let us find out!

Secret 4. Consistent in Christ / Being faithfully fluID^(v12)

I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how-to live-in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Illustration

Can you think of something that is consistent like $1+1=2$ it will never change? The numbers do not lie they are consistent.

Explanation

- a. Paul puts on humility... low circumstances (2 Corinthians 4:7-8 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing, persecuted, but not forsaken; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal body.)
- b. Prosperity- to have an abundance. Paul ample supply of what he needed.
- c. Paul was given grace to have this mind and heart. Especially looking at His circumstances
- d. Suffering was shaping Paul more and more into the image of Christ...beatings imprisonments, shipwrecked, spent the night and day in the open sea.

Application

- a. Do you have this mind and heart? **Philippians 2:5 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.** (Christ character)
- b. **Prosperity**- could be dangerous if desired for own interest.
- c. **Through** sanctification we grow into Christ likeness more and more.
- d. **Delight** in walking with Christ! He is CONSISTENT!

Secret 5. Capacity in Christ / Knowing your potential ^(v13)

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Illustration

Capacity- Do you notice the sign on the elevator that says, "weight capacity 2000 pounds" Do you have a capacity if so, what is it? How do you know if it has been reached? What are the signs? Do you quit?

Explanation

- a. Paul was able to do these things because of what he went through.
- b. "Do" not performance based. He was not trusting in his ability.
Narrow road!
- c. "All" is used as consuming. All the things he can do is done through Christ. The greatest amount of quality. Paul will not be stopped.
- d. "Things" Shipwreck, being beating, stoned, and imprisonment, hungry, thirsty, nakedness you name it.

Application

- a. The "I" is **not entitled it is not self-serving, but it is a "I get to" participant being a part of.**
- b. **"I can do" is not prideful. We cannot reach full potential doing what we want in Christ if we live like that, we will not bear fruit at best we will look like the tree Jesus cursed because it had no fruit.**
- c. **I can do ALL, have you done all you can do? Have you given your all today? Or last week? What does your all look like? Is it maxed out? All means all! Christians let us charge each with ALL we have in pursuit of Christ.**
- d. **Things that are done for Christ will last. Read [2 Corinthians 5:10](#) "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, weather good or bad.**
[James 1:12](#) "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,"

Secret 6. Covenant in Christ / Know your promise ^(v13)

through Him who strengthens me.

Illustration:

Have you been promised something that cannot be undone? When God speaks you know it is coming to pass. [Genesis 9:11](#) "I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.

[Romans 10:13](#) "For WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Explanation

Paul is saying:

- a. Through- Christ is THE WAY & THE TRUTH. He holds it altogether.
- b. Him- makes all this possible
- c. The WHO- acts alone God's power.
- d. Strengthen- Christ can perform this/keep this promise!

Application

- a. [John 10:9](#) "I am the door, if anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Jesus is THE ONLY WAY!
- b. Him- alpha and Omega the beginning and the end! All authority!
- c. The Who is Christ. WHO can give power? Christ, He gives power to make disciples and to be a witness.
- d. Strengthen- is to persevere continue to fight from a place of victory.

- e. Remember the promise Christ gives to those who are His!
- f. The promise of finishing what he started! **Philippians 1:6** "He who began a work in you will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ."
- g. The promise of making us strong through weakness. **2 Corinthians 12:10** "Therefore I am content with in weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecution, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."
- h. Do you know who you are in Christ? **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Secret 7. Competence in Christ /Knowing your power ^(v13)

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Illustration:

Have you ever had something passed down from a family member and when you showed someone what you were given, they marveled at what you had. They probably said things like man you have no idea what you have, or I hope you know what you have use it wisely. This is second point I will make from verse 13 in Philippians 4.

Explanation:

- a. Paul knows the power he possesses. It is not a power that is boastful of himself but it one that points us to Christ.
- b. Notice how Paul demonstrates to the leaders that it is Christ who is at work in through him always.
- c. Paul is showing the church how to live as Christians.

Application:

- a. Know your power! We would not live as wimpy Christians but ones who are ready for battle with the sword of the spirit.

- b. In God's sovereignty "**The**" Lord is allowing things to happen good and bad, but He has given you the strength to go through it.
- c. Christ reveals... John 5:39...in His revealing we know Him.
- d. Access to Christ power. *Acts 19:15-16 "And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you? And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*
- e. Those performing to cast out the demon had no union with Christ
- f. Christ power is relational you must know Him to know the power that He has and the power He has given you.

Secret 8. Commitment in Christ ^(v14) *Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.*

Illustration:

What does commitment look like? Have you ever met someone who was committed to something, and you admire that about them? What did it do to you or for you? Did you want to partake in their commitment? Are you down for the cause?

Explanation:

- a. **Nevertheless**, despite that; notwithstanding; all the same. Not misleading.
- b. The Philippians have proved themselves by entering with Paul sufferings.
- c. Christ wants us to know the suffering. Philippians 1:29-30, *For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also suffer for His sake, experience the same conflict which you saw in me, and hear to be in me.*
- d. "**You have done well.**" They showed themselves approved. They endure with their brother in his sufferings.

- e. **"Share my affliction"**. All of Paul's grief, pain, persecution, loss, calamity even body pain the church took part in it.

Application:

- a. "Nevertheless" **The garden of gethsemane when God the Father tells Jesus He will die" Luke 22:42**
- b. No self-preservation for the church at Philippi.
- c. Commit to the work of Christ! Nevertheless, (Prayer "oh Lord give us a nevertheless attitude may we throw up our hands in full surrender to call to being, to proclaiming, and to live for the glory of our God Jesus Christ.)
- d. Trust in the finish work of Christ! **Luke 9:62 says whoever puts his hand to the plow and looks back he is not for the kingdom.**
- e. **The commitment is not checking boxes its living on mission.**
- f. Comfortability it is not healthy or helpful for any Christian/ If your struggling cry out God.
- g. Doing the bare minimum is not enough. You are in a fight and its coming to you! Be ready, stay ready, trust in Christ finish work!

CLOSE:

Christ is the answer to being content.

- **No worldly possessions**
- **He has made Himself known.**
- **Knowing Christ = Rest**
- **Do you know who the Secret is?**
- **Do you know who the Secret is for?**
- **All who cry out in faith with repentance.**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Pray, encourage, live, hope, be like Christ. That is the life of a Christian who has been captured by grace. Will we do this perfectly no, but we strive to live passionately. It is God's good pleasure to see you/the church prospering, and obeying. God will strengthen you to do all things in good times as well as bad times! God will provide that is who He is! He is a good Father!

The secret is out. I have made it known to you it is Christ who makes us content in all circumstances.

Let us PRAY.

WORSHIP

1. You Promised (feat. The Slays- Kaden Slay & Melanie Tierce)
2. So Be It Lord (feat. People & Songs)
3. Hell and High Water (Kaden Slay & Melanie Tierce)