

How Do I Know If I'm Really Financially Content? Philippians 4:10-23

Introduction:

- Is it possible to mistakenly think you are content?
- Let's not deceive ourselves but analyze ourselves with the following questions derived from Philippians 4.

Do I r _____ God's generosity or criticize it? (18,19)

- Paul mentions the generosity of God in two ways:
 1. God used the o _____ from the Philippian church to be generous toward Paul (v. 18 – *I am amply supplied*)
 2. God's promises to supply _____ our needs (v. 19)
- Jesus illustrates criticism of God's generosity in a story about a land owner hiring laborers throughout the day (Matt 20:1-16)
 1. Each group a _____ the landowner's promise to pay them a denarius at the end of the day.
 - a. The first group worked the _____ day.
 - b. The last group worked for _____ hour
 2. At the end of the day, the landowner pays each group starting with the last group.
 - a. The workers who worked all day t _____ they were going to get more than the workers who worked one hour.
 - b. When the workers saw that they received the same they c _____ the landowner.
 3. The landowner replies to those criticizing him, "Is your eye envious because I am generous?"

● Application

1. We are criticizing the generosity of God whenever:
 - a. We f _____ over others have more than us when they are less deserving than us (we are more honest, more loving, more diligent, more spiritual). Remember, if God gave everyone what they deserved, we would all end up in _____.
 - b. We d _____ that God supply our wants.
2. Recognize the generosity of God toward you (list three things)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Do I r _____ on God's strength or my circumstances? (11-13)

- Paul learned how not to let his circumstances keep him from being c _____. Most versions have mistranslated verse 13 as *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

1. *All things* – the context refers to all c_____ (whether he had a lot or a little – see v. 12). This is one word in the Greek and is the first word of verse 13. The idea is “as for all circumstances.”
2. *I can do* – there is no “do” in the Greek text. It literally is “I am able” or “I am strong” (see this word used in Rev 12:8 stating the demons were not “strong” or did not “prevail”)
3. *Through Him who strengthens me* – it is better translated “in Him.” Only in Christ was Paul truly s_____.
4. Wester’s translation – *In regards to all situations, I am strong in Him who empowers me.*
5. The sense of verse 13 is that Paul derived His strength from Christ, n_____ from his circumstances.

Application

1. Never allow finances to be your strength, otherwise:
 - a. When you have a little, you will be w_____
 - b. When you have a lot, you will be on a power t_____ that leads to pride.
2. Does this mean that financially stressful situations should never affect us emotionally?
 - a. We cannot control how we f_____ on the inside
 - b. We must not allow those feelings to sway our c_____ or upset our c_____

Do I r_____ God’s glory or my cheapness in my giving (10,14-17)

●The example of the Philippian Christians

1. They responded to Paul’s need by sending a g_____ (vv. 10,14)
2. They s_____ him as he preached the gospel throughout the Roman Empire (vv. 15,16).

●The result of their giving

1. Pleasing to God as a s_____ (v. 18)
2. Added to their heavenly a_____ (v. 17)

●What is our heavenly account? (Matt 6:19,20)

1. It is NOT God blessing us f_____ (money is temporary)
2. It IS God reserving for us eternal r_____

●Application

1. We store up heavenly treasures by using what God has given us (e.g. money) for eternal things.
 - a. Missions (target unbelievers)– God uses it to s_____ people
 - b. Ministries (target believers)– God uses it to g_____ people
2. How much should I give to missions and ministries?

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- a. Some insist on _____% based on God's requirement for the people of Israel (Lev 27:30,31)
 - b. Some argue that the tithe was before the L_____ (Gen 14:20 – the only time) and so should be practiced. However, animal sacrifices were done long before the Law (Gen 46:1 – one of several examples), but no one will insist that Christians should continue sacrificing.
 - c. Heb 8:13 clearly states that the Old Covenant is o_____.
 - 1) Therefore I must not be legalistic about my giving but m_____ in my giving.
 - 2) Am I reflecting God's glory?
 - a. Do I spend more on my own luxuries (or my family's) than I give to God?
 - b. Am I prayerfully responding to needs? (missions and ministries)
3. Suggestions:
- a. Option 1: Track your spending for one month and classify as Need, Useful, Luxury, Giving. Then add up the totals and make the adjustments needed.
 - b. Option 2: Whenever you spend money on a luxury, set the same amount aside (or more) to give to God.
 - c. Option 3: Take the course Financial Peace (pastor is trained to lead this course)