

Content?
(Philippians 4:10-13)
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Have you ever had a time where you were just studying through Scripture and all of a sudden you realized something new about God, and you just paused and worshiped Him? That's exactly what happened to me as I was studying through today's text. This is a piece of scripture that I have read multiple times...I have even taught in this text, but as I dug a little deeper into it, I just saw how amazing God is... I saw how sovereign God is, how good God is... How God knows our hearts... God knows our needs. BUT, God doesn't just know all these things about us, but God is present and active, working in our lives. What we see though, is that God is rightfully concerned and active more in our eternal holiness than our temporary happiness. He knows and gives exactly what we need... when we need it, to the degree that we need it... with the purpose to grow us deeper in love with Christ and glorify the Father. So... Here I was, laptop open, Bible in hand... numerous commentaries filling the table I was sitting at... As I worshiped God, I just lifted my hands in the air and I just began thanking Him... Thanking Him for showing me this... Thanking God for being big enough and good enough to know what's best for me. And from that... knowing that I can find rest and comfort in Him, no matter what the circumstances are that I'm going through... I'm not sure how long I sat there, basking in God, but when I opened my eyes... Apparently, it was long enough that the guy sitting next to me drinking coffee at Panera was uncomfortable... LOL we made eye contact, he just shook his head and went back to reading his book.

Listen, we have a God that wants us to know Him... so, worship with me today, as we open God's written Word. My prayer is that you are encouraged... and challenged today, just as I was.

God's Provision

Philippians 4:10-13

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

These verses are speaking fully of finding contentment outside of our circumstances.

I found a Gallup poll from February of 2020 which claimed that 65% of Americans were very content with their personal life. These rates from 2020 match the historical rates that go back to 1979... Yup, for you Gen Z and Gen Alpha... wayyy back into the 19s. So, for over 40 years, the percent of Americans being very content in their personal lives remained about the same. A similar Gallup poll was repeated in February 2024 which claimed that only 47% of Americans were very content with their personal lives.

This made me think...What changed in their lives in just over 4 years? What circumstances changed in their lives that so many people shifted from being very content, to losing that contentment? I wonder about us... sitting here today. Am I content with where God has me, at this moment? How about you? OR, have we allowed our circumstances to dictate our contentment... have we allowed people to dictate our contentment? Do we not trust God is sovereign? Have we placed hope in a man... or in the finished work of the cross?

One pastor gives contentment a 3 part definition

- 1) Contentment is the belief that I have everything I need at this present moment
- 2) It is also the confidence that if I need anything else, God will give it to me
- 3) It is also the certainty that when I need anything else, God will give it to me, in His perfect timing, to the extent in what I need.

This pastor continues to describe contentment: "true contentment means understanding that at any given moment we have everything we truly need. We almost certainly don't have everything we want... and we probably don't have everything we THINK we need. BUT, as believers, we trust that God so ordered the universe in His sovereignty in all of His strength, that no matter where we are right now we have everything we truly need to be content. This is the idea that Paul is trying to convey in today's text. NOW... that's an easy statement for me to make up here on a Sunday morning... a hot cup of coffee in my hand... food in my belly... having slept in my warm home on my soft bed. **We just sang songs though, where we claim that that we trust in God, that he is our souls deepest desire, that we call for Blessing, honor, glory, power... For the battle YOU have won, from this we rest in Him...** BUT were these just words we repeated from a screen, or do we really believe that? I mean in the deepest part of your soul... do you really believe the words you just sang? I often pray with our students before

we worship through music... and my prayer is that as we sing, it is not just words on a screen that we are repeating, but it is the cry of our hearts. I often pray

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Saying we believe... that we trust God will give us all we need... it may be easy for some of us in this room to say this now... but what about when there is talk of more layoffs? Or reports of drops in the Stock Market? Are you still fully content in the situation God has you in? Trusting Him? What about when you're waiting for the test results from your doctor? What about when you're caught off guard when your spouse says they no longer love you and wants a divorce? Many of you can fill that blank in right now... many of you are currently going through situations and circumstances that are testing your resolve in being content with where God has you, at this moment. Trusting that God will give you everything you need, when you need it, to the degree that you need it.

I believe we live in a culture that is NEVER content... We want what we want, when we want it, and always to the degree of abundance. We have an unquenchable appetite for our wants and a feeling of entitlement to our perceived needs.

We have to remember that Paul is sitting in a Roman prison, chained to a Roman guard. One commentary described his current situation. Paul is kept in some isolation in the small quarters. Unable to move about... away from contact with others, especially the ones he loved. Over the past few years, his life has been totally dedicated to traveling, sharing the amazing news of the Gospel, and helping start churches... now he has no freedom to minister, to work, or to preach... but we know he has taken this opportunity to share the Gospel with the prison guards that he has been shackled to. As far as human provisions are concerned, he has nothing but the bare minimum... only the basics for human survival. In chapter 1 of Philippians, Paul paints this picture that the possible suffering he was withstanding while in this prison was so severe that death would be welcomed as he says

Philippians 1:20-21 It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.**21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Paul is awaiting his trial before Nero, with the very real possibility of execution. An execution that actually came to pass with Paul's beheading at the order of Nero. With every movement of his hand there is the clanking of his fetters... there is nothing waiting for him other than a lion's mouth, or a soldier's sword... yet... he was content... satisfied with exactly where God had him. In some ways this could be one of the lowest points in Paul's life, physically... but what we see is that spiritually regardless of his circumstances, or possibly, BECAUSE of his circumstances... Paul is thriving!

It amazes me that while he was enduring all of this, he could have been so wrapped up and consumed with his personal circumstances to have only an inward focus... I mean would you fault Paul for saying... man... life is hard right now. Would you fault Paul for crying out to God? God, this is too much! Take this from me... change my circumstances... but at the same time Paul was going through all of this, he was writing this letter to the church in Philippi, trying to encourage them! What perspective!

So you ask today... How do I learn to be content in all situations?

That's a great question. I'm so glad you asked...

Components of contentment

1) Confidence in God's providence.

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

Here was Paul sitting in prison and he rejoiced in the Lord GREATLY.

The Greek adjective for “greatly” was used to describe something of significant size, importance, or intensity. Paul rejoiced in the Lord with intensity... In the New Testament, this word for “greatly” often emphasized the magnitude of God's works, the authority of Jesus, or the impact of events.

I imagine Paul sitting in prison, shackled hands raised, worshiping God, with intensity... grateful for how God was providing for him... God, giving him exactly what he NEEDED, when he NEEDED it. To the degree he needed it. God, used the people of the church of Philippi, to fulfill this need. Paul was full of joy for the love of the Philippian church and how they cared so well for him. Paul never

begged believers to help him in his work. He just placed the need before them and trusted God to stir in their hearts to meet the need.

I think of some of our missionaries and Go team partners and how God has stirred in so many of YOUR hearts to be exceedingly generous in caring for them. BUT, is there more that God is calling us to do? Are we caring for them... praying for them... sending letters of encouragement to them, in such a way that our GO Team Partners are rejoicing in the Lord greatly for us? Pastor Kyle, along with our Edge Missions team is going to be launching Care Teams, for our missionaries... they will be taking on this exact role... of following up with missionaries.... Encouraging them, loving them, caring for them... and YOU can be a part of these care teams. There will be more to come about the Edge Missionary Care teams later this summer.

Paul was basking in this moment, seeing God was sovereign and that he could trust God and His timing.

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

I was like... Paul seems to be rambling. Paul is a highly educated guy... he is traditionally very specific when he writes.. So, why does this seem like a tangent he is going on? Then, I read one commentary that cleared it up. Paul was very concerned with articulating his thoughts well. His words were often twisted. **2 Peter 3:15-16** talks about how his words have been twisted before. Peter is writing as he says

“As our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Paul is demonstrating wisdom that our words matter. What we say and sometimes more importantly HOW we say them... matters! I have gotten myself in a bind more than once because what I intended to communicate to someone and how it was received were two very different ideas. Here, Paul was trying to share his heart with the Philippian church, but he didn't want to come across as criticizing them. He wasn't upset that they had not been to the Roman prison sooner... he understood that they just hadn't had the opportunity, they lacked the season... there

was simply no way it could be done. Likely due to poverty and/or persecution that they were under in Philippi... and they were just not able to make it to him, until now, and Paul recognizes that it is God's perfect timing.

There was no panic in Paul. He wasn't nervous or upset... he wasn't anxious. God had always provided for Paul... previously, it simply wasn't through the Philippian church. Paul had such confidence in God... that he rested, knowing that God would also provide for his current needs. It just happened to be that God's providence rested in this moment on the Philippian church to find the resources... EXACTLY ON SCHEDULE, and have them delivered to Paul.

I love to sit back and think, how God ordered all of the circumstances through all the contingencies of the world, correlating all of the diverse factors of all of creation, to provide exactly what Paul needed, in the exact moment he needed it, to the degree that he needed it. Listen, when you sit back and think how God used all of creation... knew all of the nuances of individual lives and rested heavily on the hearts of the church.... To fulfill His will... in providing for Paul in that moment... this causes me to just worship God.

Components of contentment

- 1) Confidence in God's providence.**
- 2) Be satisfied with little**

Verse 11, Paul had to tackle his critics that claimed that Paul was just in the ministry for the money.... He said, "I'm not speaking of being in need." For us, this is so counter cultural... but Paul was in a place where he was like.... I don't need anything... I'm good! I find it interesting that often it is in some of the worst times of our lives that we finally gain the perspective of what really is important... the things that we really need. Paul, sitting in prison, facing possible death for his faith. Yet, he was like... I'm good! I don't have any needs. We see Paul's heart here when his thought is clarified in verse 17 as he said he didn't seek the gift, but the fruit that increases. Paul was looking at the gifts the Philippian church brought him and he was seeing how they could be used for ministry... to further the gospel. He was excited about how God would use their gifts to produce spiritual fruit.

This can all be seen as encouraging. That God will give us what we need, when we need it, to the degree we need it. When I asked people how they have experienced God's providing for them, most shared how God financially provided, God provided someone to walk through life with them, BUT few people shared how they were able to see how God provided for them, by taking something away.

Job 1:21

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; but the response remains the same, blessed be the name of the LORD.”

One person shared with me that when a specific dating relationship ended, they definitely didn't have contentment in that moment, but looking back, they can see how even this was in God's good and perfect providence. Looking back, this wasn't a healthy relationship.

Paul ends verse 11 by saying that he has learned to be content in all situations. Here, the English word “content” is a translation of a Greek word that means “self-sufficiency.” The idea of self-sufficiency can be used in an unfavorable sense. Self-sufficiency can lead to the sin of pride... that I can do it by myself, I can be good enough, I can be strong enough... Self-sufficiency is the trait that leads people to deny their need for God. I don't need God, because in my self-sufficiency, I can do it all.

In contrast, the idea of self-sufficiency can be used in a favorable sense. It is good to be as responsible and self-sufficient as possible. **2 Thessalonians 3:10** Paul pushed this point when he told them that “**we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.**” We aren't called to just sit on our hands and let life happen around us... we are called to be active, engaged and involved with life. So, there is a favorable use of the term, self-sufficient. Paul said he was content in all circumstances... Paul used the Greek word in a favorable sense, essentially saying I'm good... whether the church of Philippi sent supplies or not... Paul was like ‘I'm good.’ Times where I have abundance... “I'm good”... times where I am brought low... “I'm good.” Paul wasn't negating his reliance on God, but was saying in all circumstances I'm good... because of his reliance on God. So, his response was rejoicing in how God was using the Philippian church for that provision... Paul wasn't rejoicing for the provision... He was rejoicing in the Lord... it wasn't the stuff Epaphroditus brought that Paul was excited about... It was God Himself that Paul was excited about... He didn't care about the stuff... he cared about God... He cared about souls... He cared about the Gospel.

Unless Jesus is enough... you will never have enough.

Paul also said the idea of being content in all situations was something he had to learn... see in verse 11, he said he had learned in all situations to be content. This explains why our default in life is to worry... why our default in life is to be anxious... is to doubt and wonder if God really is good... if God really does care...

If God is even real. BUT Paul said he had learned to be content... So, my question is how, Paul? How do I learn this too... Because there are definitely times where I'm like... God, I don't wanna go through this... God take this from me... God, make this situation end... I am definitely not content.

Spurgeon convicted me... as he usually does, when he said: "You say, 'If I had a little more, then I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."

Spurgeon follows up saying... "Ah you will never have enough till you get Christ, but when you have Him, you will be full to the brim. Contentment is the peculiar jewel of the beloved of the Lord Jesus."

Components of contentment

- 1) Confidence in God's providence.**
- 2) Be satisfied with little and have no wants beyond what is necessary**
- 3) Live Independent of circumstances**

Philippians 4:12

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Now, we look at the circumstances that Paul was describing... to be brought low and to abound... these are extreme opposite ends of the spectrum... facing plenty and in times of hunger... in abundance and in need. I think it is easy for us to interpret this as in times that are good and in times that are bad. But I think this is exactly the type of mindset that Paul was actually trying to combat. Here is the piece that we have to hold on to... Paul knows that we can thrive spiritually in either condition. I gotta say this a second time... Paul has learned that you can thrive spiritually in all circumstances... I would even argue that it is in times of greatest lows... it is in the place where we are facing hunger and need, that we learn to lean into God more. I will say this gently, but I think Paul was in a place where he wasn't saying to find contentment in good and bad times... but that all the times... he has determined are good times, when Christ is with you...

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

I find it interesting that Paul referred to himself so many times. He said: I know, I have learned, I can do. For a guy that says he is fully content with where God has him, that it's all about pointing to Jesus... Paul talks a lot about what HE does. As much as Paul recognized God's sovereignty, it didn't change the fact that Paul still had to live through and experience the joy and pain of life... Paul wasn't saying that there wasn't pain or loneliness in his circumstances... Paul still experienced painful moments in life... but his trust for God was greater!

Contentment means to be satisfied, it means to have enough, it means to want nothing more. This same word is used in Luke chapter 4 we are told to be content with our wages... 1 Timothy 6 - Godliness with contentment is of great gain... Hebrews 13- Be content with what you have for He said, I will never leave you or forsake you. This means contentment is seen as a spiritual virtue... being content should be true of every born-again believer.

In contrast we live in a culture that says contentment is found within... the media tells us to follow our hearts... high school and college students are told to "go and find themselves"... my generation was told... just work hard and you can accomplish anything. How many of you were going through a rough time and someone gave you the amazing advice to just think more positively... Please note my sarcasm. Thinking positive doesn't just instantly make the pain of life go away... does it? My favorite is when life circumstances are rough and someone replies... "sending you good vibes"... What does that even mean? Today's generation is being told, they can be ANYTHING... so "you be you". Our students have heard me rant about this phrase so many times, that when they hear someone use it... they just groan. LOL I share with students... We are sinners, right? That's a fundamental truth of scripture. God created us to be in a relationship with Him... but our sin separates us from Him. So we have inherited sin, we have imputed sin, we have personal sin... we are just a big ole bottle of sin. So when you tell someone... "You be you"... you're essentially giving them the right to bask in their sin, to wallow in their sin... to push God farther away. Scripture in contrast tells us to be holy as He is holy... Paul even says in 1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. Paul is saying... I'm chasing after Jesus... I am living for Jesus. Let's pursue Jesus together. It is in the truth of who our Creator says we are... that we find satisfaction, that we find contentment, regardless of our circumstances.

Components of contentment

- 1) Confidence in God's providence.**
- 2) Be satisfied with little and have no wants beyond what is necessary**

- 3) **Live Independent of circumstances**
- 4) **Understand the promise of divine power.**

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

I was asked by a student... if I were in the same position that Paul was currently in... could I also find this contentment? I shared with this student that I trust God to a degree that I am confident that if I was in that moment, that the Holy Spirit would provide for me the strength I need, at the exact time I need it, to the exact degree that I need it, to serve, just as Paul did. So, no... I know on my own strength that I couldn't find that degree of contentment, in the situation that Paul was in, but as God strengthens me... strengthens my resolve, strengthens my confidence in His providence, as God strengthens my satisfaction with only what I need, as God strengthens my ability to find contentment outside of my circumstances... but instead to find my contentment with Him...

One pastor shared that as we read verse **13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me**. Our culture takes this verse and says we can do it all... we can have it all... we can be big enough and strong enough to accomplish our self-centered dreams. I can overcome MY obstacles to reach MY goals... I don't need to suffer or be in need, because I can overcome...

I once saw a guy in the gym... I initially noticed he was wearing a high school football sweatshirt that had this verse on it. "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength. Before I had a chance to talk with him, he had what looked to me like WAAAY too much weight on the bench press. He put his headphones on... cranked his music up... walked back to the bench and laid under all this weight. This got my attention. I continued to watch, thinking if this little guy can push that much weight... It will be impressive. So, I'm silently cheering this guy on! He lifted the weight off the rack... and with terrible form, he lowered the weight to his chest. This was the point where total panic struck him. He let out a little squeak, as the weight did not budge off his chest. I probably sat there too long watching, before I realized, someone should probably help him out. I ran over to grab the bar and help lift this weight off of him.

One of my buddies walked over to me and said "apparently he can't do all things through Christ... cause that weight didn't budge!"

My buddy wasn't wrong. So, what now? If this guy took this verse out of context and thought that it meant he could lift a ton of weight, because God would

strengthen him? How does that impact his faith, when this weight doesn't budge off his chest? Does he begin to question, Is God real? Question if God's promises are secure? Does this affect how we see assurance of salvation?

I just heard the phrase at a pastor's breakfast "context without looking at the text is just a con. There is a ton of truth here.

So, I went back through the book of Philippians, to look at the context of Paul claiming he can do all things through Christ, who strengthens him, in regard to this entire letter to the Philippian Church. What are the things that Paul faced that he needed Jesus' strength to endure.

1:13-Paul needed God's strength to endure

1:20- he needed God's strength to honor God in his flesh, to remain in the flesh and help the Philippian church to progress in their love and unity

2:17- strength to humble himself, to trust and submit to God

2:19- strength to continue to hope for opportunities to send others out with the gospel

3: 9-11- strength from Christ to continue suffering loss for the sake of Christ.

3:14- strength to push on toward the prize of the upward call

Paul's desperate need for strength to find contentment in all circumstances culminates in chapter 4 where he said... the only reason I am capable of doing any of these things, the only reason I cannot just endure, but even to find contentment in any of these circumstances is because of Christ... who strengthens me. Paul admits, he was incapable on his own strength... he was incapable in his own power...

Not only can we see how Paul needed Christ to strengthen him, but, what are ways Paul challenged the Philippian church, in which they can only accomplish it through Christ's strength.

1:4-Philippian church needed Christ's strength to continue to partner in the Gospel.

1:9- God's strength to live pure and blameless, filled with the fruit of righteousness.

1:27- to live a life worthy of the Gospel... to stand firm with one spirit, one mind, striving together for the sake of the Gospel-

2:5 - have the mind of Christ

2:12-13- needed the power of Christ to always obey, with fear and trembling

2:14- to not grumble but be a light in a dark world

3:1-3- to identify false teachers, false prophets that came to the church of Philippi to not allow unity of the church to be destroyed... recognize and discern truth.

3:17- they needed Christ's strength to imitate the example of Paul and continue to press toward the goal...

4:1- stand firm in the Lord

4:5-7- rejoice in the Lord and not to be anxious- they needed the strength of Christ...

Essentially, Paul was saying, he was incapable of anything of worth, without the strength that Christ provided.

Paul wanted people not to see him... he wanted people to see Christ... To see that there was no human explanation to the peace and contentment that Paul was experiencing... that nothing was shaking Paul... because of Christ! Paul could be content in every way, regardless of his circumstances... he had been sustained... BECAUSE of the divine power of Christ.

Components of contentment

- 1) Confidence in God's providence.
- 2) Be satisfied with little
- 3) Live Independent of circumstances
- 4) Understand the promise of divine power.

Paul not only said that contentment was something that needed to be learned... but he also said that it was a secret. The Greek verb used here for secret, means to initiate into the mysteries. In context, it conveyed the idea of learning something that was not immediately obvious or accessible to everyone. This was a secret that as believers we have come to know and understand. It's a secret that Paul was not great at keeping. The secret to experiencing this contentment begins with a right relationship with God. God has created us to be in a relationship with Him... but our sin separates us from Him... our sin has divided us from a right relationship with God. How would we ever expect to even begin to find contentment, if we are rejecting the one relationship God created us for?

For Paul, we see his response to life circumstances was to keep his eyes on Jesus and to rejoice in the LORD. From that he was able to find contentment.

Oswald Chambers, most notable for the compilation of his writings, put into a daily devotion "My Utmost for His Highest," wrote the following in his personal journal, during the time in his life where he was wrestling with his career as an artist and God's calling on his life to go into pastoral ministry.

“For three weeks now I have had no work—art, portrait painting—all my commissions are finished, and I have no new ones. I have not been able to pay my landlady for some time now and I have, as my sole money possession in this world, 1 shilling, 8 pence. This is certainly not an abstract matter, but one of immediate concern, everything I have tried has been hopelessly unsuccessful. This coming week brings no shadow of a prospect. I look at home and see a great need for money there, and yet I have tried and prayed to gain money sufficient to help them, and yet I am not afraid, I am not downcast, I am serious, fervently serious that I can face the whole unflinchingly because my faith and consolation is in the Lord my God. This is not the first time I have been in such straits. I have been through much worse times, with 6 pence as my sole possession, and all has been well because God is here. It will be alright.

Much like Paul, Oswald Chambers was able to find contentment, trusting that God would provide what he NEEDED, when he NEEDED it, to the degree he NEEDED it, and in all circumstances he found contentment.

Action Steps

- 1) Place your faith and trust in Him. There is no way to find eternal contentment outside of a right relationship with God.
- 2) Keep our eyes on Jesus... It's easy to get distracted with the next big thing going on in our world. Right... I serve in student ministry, I know how easy it is for someone to get distracted with something shiny. I watched COVID break the unity of many churches. Politics, social media, electronics, all continue to be a distraction... We must be very intentional to keep our eyes focused on what is MOST important... that is Jesus. Being one of your pastors, I get to hear the occasional comments. One person says “you need to talk about politics more,” the next person says “thank you for not talking about politics,” the next person says, “the music is too loud,” my favorite comment... “the pastor preaches too long”... which is actually a valid comment LOL... man can that guy talk! You know what I was encouraged in? Someone shared with me they were rejoicing in the Lord for the 14 baptisms that we had here a few weeks ago. 14 people stood before their church family and publicly proclaimed their faith. This sparked another conversation where someone was celebrating... rejoicing that we have high school and college age students helping to lead music... another person spoke up and said “praise God for those high school students serving us coffee in the Edge Cafe. I would never make it through one of Pastor Brian's sermons without that caffeine!!! OK, maybe that was my own comment. Take a look around for just a second, and rejoice. I love this

church... I rejoice that we refuse to back down to cultural pressures, I rejoice that we stand unashamed on biblical truth, I rejoice that we are multi-generational. I rejoice that there are people here that are mature believers, that are living an example of a life dedicated to Christ, and I rejoice that this is a safe place for people to wrestle through what they actually believe about God. Paul was in prison and his reaction was to rejoice in the Lord. I just wonder what would happen in terms of our contentment, if we spent more time seeing ways to rejoice in the Lord and all He is doing!

- 3) Thank God for the ways He has provided. I found this an interesting exercise. Looking at my life, acknowledging the ways God has provided the things I NEED. BUT then, seeing the ways God has blessed me above and beyond. It was humbling. It wasn't even the stuff that I have that I was humbled over... it was the people that God has placed in my life. How well God knows my heart that God has placed certain people in my life. Recently, I have been studying through the events leading to Christ's death, burial and resurrection. I continue to find myself sitting back worshiping God for the salvation that He has provided. In that... we are able to see that God has provided all we need, when we need it, to the degree that we need it, which leads us to rejoice and find contentment in all circumstances.

Pray

1045 Member Joining- Micah