

Redeeming our Circumstances

Philippians 4:11-13 MSG

“I’ve learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I’m just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I’ve found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”

At the beginning of the year, we believe we received the word of the Lord and visionary theme for 2020: THE YEAR OF REDEMPTION. God has not changed His mind, and we still believe that He is willing and able to bring His promised REDEMPTION.

To **Redeem** something means to buy it back, to regain possession of it.

Most of us would have to admit that there are times when our circumstances determine, or at least affect, our levels of satisfaction and happiness. In fact, circumstances often have a ripple effect, setting off a chain of accompanying reactions and determining other outcomes. Philippians 4:11-13 gives us the secret to flipping the script on circumstances: redeem them with contentment.

How do we redeem our circumstances?

- **Be content with whatever we have.**

Whatever we have has been provided by God. The Bible tells us that every good and perfect gift is from Him, and He will not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly. The key to growth and blessing is gratitude. When we are grateful for what is in our hands (even those things that are still in seed form), there is the possibility and probability of abundance. God can do much with little in an environment of contentment & gratitude.

Philippians 4:12 (AMP)

I know how to get along and live humbly [in difficult times], and I also know how to enjoy abundance *and* live in prosperity.

- **Be content with wherever we are.**

The current limitations on where we can go and what we can do have been challenging for most people and heartbreaking for others. Major events and experiences that are meant to be shared like graduations, weddings, and funerals, have had to be restructured way beyond what feels normal to us. Yet in Philippians 4:11, Paul gives us a glimpse of an undisturbed contentment through Christ regardless of the conditions. The definition of the

word “*disturb*” is “to have the normal pattern disrupted.” Could there be a more fitting description of Spring 2020 than “normal patterns disrupted.” Most of us have had to adapt to a “new normal,” one that involves flexibility, trust, reliance on God, and holding on (for dear life) to faith, hope, and love. Perhaps it is our “new normal” that was never meant to be disturbed in the first place.

Philippians 4:11 (AMP)

“I have learned to be content [and self-sufficient through Christ, satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or uneasy] regardless of my circumstances.

- **Be content in God’s grace & peace.**

Paul tells us in this passage that he has learned the secret to facing life, whatever the circumstances—God’s strength and peace. The grace lavished upon us through Jesus Christ strengthens and empowers us for every circumstance and for all He has called us to do. This supernatural impartation doesn’t just help us to survive; His grace and favor thrives and increases in our weakness and need. Beyond that, peace that surpasses understanding, fortifies the certainty of His presence. We can face any and every circumstance of life with the strength of His grace and the confidence of His peace.

Philippians 4:12-13 (AMP)

“In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret [of facing life], whether well-fed or going hungry, whether having an abundance or being in need. ¹³ I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]”