

"The Search for Satisfaction"

Mount of Olives | August 24, 2025 | Philippians 4:11-12

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Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, our spirits long to be filled with Your divine presence, but too often our humanness distracts us to earthly desires. As tempting as worldly satisfactions may seem, we know that they often interfere with the true peace and fulfillment that can only be supplied by You. Help us to remember this reality, let go of distractions and stay focused on You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:11-12

Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.

Message Notes

Psalm 16:11

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 107:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Study Questions – Read Philippians 4:10-20

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's something small that someone did for you recently that meant a lot?
2. If you had to sum up "contentment" in one word or picture, what would it be?

Based on Philippians 4:10-20, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Philippians 4:10-20**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Why does Paul rejoice so greatly at the Philippians' renewed concern for him (v.10)?
2. What does Paul mean when he says he has "learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (v.11)?
3. How do you see the difference between *contentment* and *complacency* in this passage?
4. What experiences might have taught Paul the "secret of being content" in both plenty and want (v.12)?
5. How should verse 13 ("I can do all this through him who gives me strength") be understood in its context? How does this understanding challenge popular ways people often use this verse today?
6. What role does the Philippians' partnership in giving and receiving play in Paul's ministry (v.14-16)?
7. Why does Paul emphasize that he is not seeking a gift, but fruit that increases to the Philippians' credit (v.17)?
8. What does Paul mean when he describes their gifts as "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God" (v.18)?
9. How does Paul's confidence in God's provision ("my God will meet all your needs," v.19) encourage generosity and trust?
10. In what ways can we practice contentment and generosity in today's culture of consumerism?
11. How do these verses reshape our understanding of giving—not as loss, but as participation in God's work and worship?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What situations in your life right now are testing your ability to be content, and how can you invite Christ's strength into them?
2. How might practicing gratitude help you grow in contentment, whether you are in a season of plenty or in need?
3. In what practical ways could you show generosity this week, like the Philippians did for Paul?
4. How can you reframe your giving so that you see it not just as helping others, but as an offering that pleases God?
5. Where do you most need to trust God's promise in verse 19—that He will supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus?