



SERIES: APRIL – YES, YOU CAN! OVERCOMING YOUR STRUGGLES

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Friday, 04/29/2022

Scripture: Philippians 4:10-12

TITLE: Lasting Contentment

Last night my son and I took some time together to have fun. We went to a local arcade. He had the choice between playing unlimited games for an hour or playing prize machines for as long as the credits lasted. He chose the prize machines. Well, instead of spending an hour at the arcade, we had 10 minutes. He left mad and frustrated. Instead of focusing on the fun we had, he focused on what he did not have: more time and a prize.

It's easy to become disappointed and discontent in everyday moments. Not the apostle Paul. Paul could respond well to any circumstances because he had the secret sauce to contentment. So do we if we use it. What do I mean by that? Let's listen to Paul's words in Philippians 4:10-12 (CSB).

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. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 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.

Paul loved this Philippian church. It was 10 years earlier that Paul planted this church. The church supported Paul during his Macedonian mission work. But there came a time where they couldn't help anymore. That's why Paul said, "You had no opportunity." That is until this recent gift they sent with Epaphroditus.

But then Paul slaps me in the face by saying, "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." Ouch.

Paul's posture of contentment is a message most of us need to hear today. Now, before I unpack that, there is nothing wrong with desiring something. Desires are not wrong. Wanting a side of ranch with your fries is fine. Desiring a home where you don't have to put 3 kids in one room is fine. Having a bucket list is great. The problem lies in your contentment. Are you content if the ranch never comes? Are you thankful to God for His provision if you live in the tiny home your whole life? Are you okay if 1 out of 20 items get fulfilled?

If not, you're not content.

Paul had experienced great influence, authority, and some monetary convenience. But he traded it for hardship, poverty, and chains. Yet, he said, whether I have \$1000 or \$0.10, it's all good.

Friend, God knows your needs and will provide them. Jesus promised it. God delivers it. Simply rest and receive it.

So here's my challenge for you today: Refocus. How are you discontent? No prize from the claw machine? Probably not. Is it in your car? Your home? Your job? Your bank account? Where is it that you are telling God with your lips or actions, "God, this isn't good enough? I want – no, I demand more." We all have an area—even pastor Nat.

Then pray to God to change your perspective – to refocus and give you contentment. God provides lasting peace, joy, and contentment in all circumstances. The question is will we receive it?