
C. STRENGTHENING CHARACTER

C.2: I WANT TO BE MOVING FROM DISCONTENTMENT TO CONTENTMENT [PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13]

A STORY

Complaining and griping characterized Roger on my ship in the Navy. He had been addicted to alcohol and was making a mess of his life. After a car accident, God got his attention and he trusted Christ for his salvation. However, he was a new believer and was not growing. It seemed like he and everyone around me on my ship were unhappy about something. It was either their job, the food, the conditions, the fellow sailors and many other things. He would complain and gripe about everything. To help him I shared these verses. NOTE: After going over the Scripture and seeing him apply this in his life, his growth and love for God was off the charts. It was delighting to see him grow. Complaining was stunting his growth.

DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE

We can see that the Apostle Paul was experiencing a lot of difficulties in his life and ministry. He saw the difficulties from God. He had learned something through the good and bad. Let's see what we can learn from his writings and apply.

Philippians 4:10-13:

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY

1. Paul describes a secret that he has learned in contentment. What do you think it was?
2. What would it look like if you learned to be content?
3. What does it mean to be content?
4. How would it feel for you to be content?
5. What does it mean that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me?"

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

6. What has caused some of your discontent?
7. What do you think was at the key of Paul's learning contentment?
8. What can you learn from this?
9. What steps can you take to be content?
10. When will you take them?

LIST ANY OTHER VERSES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE: