

# Philippians Series

## Lesson #105

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**How to be Content  
in Any Situation  
Philippians 4:10–13**



**They have had financial problems:**

**2 Cor. 8:1, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:**

**2 Cor. 8:2, “that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.**

**2 Cor. 8:3, “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,”**

**In some areas of Macedonia, such as Thessaloniki, there was a great hostility to the gospel.**

**Acts 17:5, “But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.**

**Acts 17:6, “But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, ‘These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.**

**Acts 17:7, “ ‘Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.’**

**Acts 17:8, “And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.**

**Acts 17:9, “So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.”**

**Acts 17:13, “But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.”**

**Php. 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**

**Php. 4:5, “Let your graciousness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.**

**Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;**

**Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

**Php. 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**

**Php. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.**

**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”**

**Php. 4:4, ‘Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!’**

**Php. 4:5, “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.**

**Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;**

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Php. 4:4, ‘**Rejoice** in the Lord always. Again I will say, **rejoice!**

Php. 4:5, “Let your gentleness **be known** to all men. The Lord is at hand.

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Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all **understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Php. 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate [think, reflect, concentrate]** on these things.

Php. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these **do**, and the God of peace will be with you.

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Php. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these **do**, and **the God of peace will be with you.**”

Php. 4:10, “But I **rejoiced** in the Lord greatly that now at last your **care** for me has flourished again; though you surely did **care**, but you lacked opportunity.”



Php. 4:4, “**Rejoice** in the Lord always. Again I will say, **rejoice!**”

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Php. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these **do**, and **the God of peace will be with you**.

Php. 4:10, “But I **rejoiced** in the Lord greatly that now at last your **care** [thoughtful concern] for me has flourished again; though you surely did **care [think about me]**, but you lacked opportunity.



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your **care [thoughtful concern]** for me has flourished again; though you surely did **care [think about me]**, but you lacked opportunity.**

**Php. 4:11, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

**Php. 4:12, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

**Php. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care [thoughtful concern] for me has flourished again; though you surely did care [think about me], but you lacked opportunity.” [NKJV]**

**Php. 4:10, “I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it.” [HCSB]**



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care [thoughtful concern] for me has flourished again; though you surely did care [think about me], but you lacked opportunity.”**

**χαίρω *chairō* Verb**

**1 sing aor pass indic  
to rejoice; hail**



**Php. 1:4, “always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,”**

**Php. 1:18, “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.”**

**Php. 1:25, “And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,”**

**Php. 2:2, “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”**

**Php. 2:17, “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.**

**Php. 2:18, “For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.”**

**Php. 2:28, “Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.**

**Php. 2:29, “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;”**



**Php. 2:2, “complete my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”**



**Php. 4:1, “Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”**

**Php. 3:1, “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.”**

**Php. 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”**

**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”**



**Php. 1:4, “always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,**

**Php. 1:5, “for your financial partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,**

**Php. 1:6, “because I am confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”**



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care [thoughtful concern] for me has flourished again; though you surely did care [think about me], but you lacked opportunity.”**

**χαίρω *chairō* Verb**  
**1 sing aor pass indic**  
**to rejoice; hail**

**μεγάλως *megalōs***

**Greatly. Paul’s joy, which is stable because it is grounded in the Lord, is added to, or increased NOT because of the gift, but because of their thoughtfulness which is based on grace orientation.**



**Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is  
no law.”**



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care [thoughtful concern] for me has flourished again; though you surely did care [think about me], but you lacked opportunity.”**

**χαίρω *chairō* Verb**

**1 sing aor pass indic  
to rejoice; hail**

**ἀναθάλλω *anathallō***

**2 plur aor act indic  
to flourish, sprout  
anew; to bloom again**

**μεγάλως *megalōs***

**Greatly. Paul’s joy, which is stable because it is grounded in the Lord, is added to, or increased NOT because of the gift, but because of their thoughtfulness which is based on grace orientation.**



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your thoughtful concern for me has blossomed again; though you surely did think about me, but you lacked opportunity.”**

**φρονέω *phroneō***

**pres act infin**

**to think a certain way**

**about someone**

**φρονέω *phroneō***

**2 plur imperfect act**

**indic**

**to continuously think**

**about someone in the  
past**



**Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”**

**Php. 2:2, “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”**

**Php. 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”**

**Php. 3:15, “Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.”**

**Php. 3:19 , “whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”**

**Php. 4:2, “I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.”**

**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”**



**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your thoughtful concern for me has blossomed again; though you surely did think about me, but you lacked opportunity to show it.”**

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**Php. 4:11, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:”**



**Php. 4:11, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:”**

**ὕστέρησις *husterēsis***

**fem sing acc**

**need, want**

**BDAG “the condition of lacking that which is essential, need, lack, poverty”**

**Mark 12:44.**

**Mark 12:44, “for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”**

**Php. 4:11, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:”**

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**Mark 12:44, “for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”**

**αὐτάρκης *autarkēs***

**masc sing nom**

**content,**

**sufficient;**

**independent**

**Problem: human self-sufficiency is**

**the work of the sin nature.**

**This is Christ-sufficiency.**



# **What does it mean to be “content?”**

***COED:***

**N.**

- 1. a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.**
- 2. [usually with negative] Brit. informal success or satisfaction: you'll get no joy out of her.**

# What does it mean to be “content?”

***Collins* 21<sup>st</sup> century is a bit more developed.**

- 1. a deep feeling or condition of happiness or contentment.**
- 2. something causing such a feeling; a source of happiness.**
- 3. an outward show of pleasure or delight; rejoicing.**
  
- 4. Brit, informal. success; satisfaction: I went to the bank for a loan, but got no joy ♦ vb**
- 5. (intr) to feel joy.**
- 6. (tr) Obsolete. to make joyful; gladden. [C13: from Old French *joie*, from Latin *gaudium* joy, from *gaudēre* to be glad]**



**What does it mean to be “content?”**

***American Dictionary of the English Language* Websters  
1<sup>st</sup> edition.**

- 1. The passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good; that excitement of pleasurable feelings which is caused by success, good fortune, the gratification of desire or some good possessed, or by a rational prospect of possessing what we love or desire; gladness; exultation; exhilaration of spirits.**

**Biblically:**

**a. not an emotion**

**b. a fruit of the Spirit, a character quality developed by walking by the Spirit and internalizing the Word of God**



# Greek

**μακάριος *makarios***

**Acts 26:2, “I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews,” [NKJV]**

**Rom. 14:22, “Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.” [NKJV]**

# 1. χαρά, chara “joy, delight” (akin to *chairō*, “to rejoice”)

Php. 4:1, “Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.” [NKJV]

James 1:2, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,” [NKJV]



## **The problem:**

**In modern western society happiness or contentment comes connected with the idea it is based on certain pleasurable circumstances, people responding to us the way we are comfortable with and like; having certain financial certainty and stability; often tied to having certain possessions; it is based on external circumstances.**

**Biblical joy is based on the faith-rest drill. We trust in God, relax in His guidance and directions, and know that whatever the circumstances, my mental attitude and focus is relaxed whether the circumstances are favorable, pleasant, unpleasant, or disagreeable, even painful.**

# **Why are people not content?**

- 1. We have a culture that is so “me” focused, that the corollary is that we look to people, events, things, circumstances, to meet our emotional, financial, social needs.**
- 2. When we are not content, we should do some soul searching to determine why.**

**Unmet needs, unmet desires; loss of something important or realizing something important is unachievable or out of reach.**



- 3. We live in a society that focuses on dependence: we depend or even expect others to be aware of and to meet our needs. Wake up! The world does not revolve around us. That is a manifestation of “me”-centered life.**
- 4. The solution the world offers is basically self-sufficiency; we should be independent of others. That is good as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough.**

- 5. The problem is**
- a. the self-centered “me” focus of our sin nature,**
  - b. a culture that feeds the belief that our needs should be met by other people, situations, circumstances, and even our own emotions.**

**The bottom line is our sin natures on the one hand, and the world system reinforces a false human viewpoint way of thinking.**

- 6. Self-sufficiency is the world’s answer; Christ sufficiency is God’s answer.**



## **Peter's Perspective**

**1 Pet. 1:6, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,**

**1 Pet. 1:7, “that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”**

## Peter's Perspective

**2 Pet. 1:3, “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,**

**2 Pet. 1:4, “by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”**



**James writes:**

**James 1:2, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,**

**James 1:3, “because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**

**James 1:4, “But let endurance have its maturing work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.”**



I CAN DO ALL THINGS  
THROUGH A VERSE  
TAKEN OUT OF  
CONTEXT



**Php. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” [NKJV]**

**Php. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” [NKJV]**

**What are the “all things?”**

**Does that mean I can make straight As and not study?**

**Does that mean I can drive blindfolded and not hit anything or anyone?**

**Does that mean I can be like Superman?**

**What is the context?**

**Php. 4:12, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” [NKJV]**

**Php. 4:12, “I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need.” [HCSB]**



**Php. 4:12, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” [NKJV]**

**ταπεινός *tapeinoō* pres pass infin to humble, humiliate; to have few possessions or money.**

**περισσεύω *perisseuō* pres act infin to abound, to have an abundance.**

**Php. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” [NKJV]**

**What are the “all things?”**

**Does that mean I can make straight As and not study?**

**Does that mean I can drive blindfolded and not hit anything or anyone?**

**Does that mean I can be like Superman?**

**What is the context? In all circumstances, rich or poor, in adversity or prosperity.**



I CAN DO ALL THINGS  
THROUGH A VERSE  
TAKEN OUT OF  
CONTEXT



**What were some of Paul's circumstances?**

**Acts 14:19, “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”**

**Acts 16:22, “Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.”**

**Acts 16:23, “And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.”**

**Acts 16:24, “Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”**

**What were some of Paul's circumstances?**

**Acts 17:13, “But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.”**

**Acts 18:12, “When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat,”**

**Acts 20:3, “and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.”**

**What were some of Paul's circumstances?**

**2 Cor. 6:4**, “But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

**2 Cor. 6:5**, “in whippings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

**2 Cor. 6:6**, “by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

**2 Cor. 6:7**, “by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

**2 Cor. 6:8**, “by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;

**2 Cor. 6:9**, “as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;

**2 Cor. 6:10**, “as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”



**What were some of Paul's circumstances?**

**2 Cor. 7:5, “For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.”**

**2 Cor. 11:23, “Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in whippings above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.**

**2 Cor. 11:24, “From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.”**

**What were some of Paul's circumstances?**

**2 Cor. 11:25, “Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;**

**2 Cor. 11:26, “in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;**

**2 Cor. 11:27, “in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—**

**2 Cor. 11:28, “besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”**

**What were some of Paul's circumstances?**

**2 Cor. 11:29, “Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?”**

**2 Cor. 11:30, “If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.**

**2 Cor. 11:31, “The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.**

**2 Cor. 11:32, “In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;**

**2 Cor. 11:33, “but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.”**



**Php. 4:13, “I can face any and all circumstances through Christ who strengthens me.” [RD]**

## **“Satisfied”**

**All my life long I had panted  
for a draught from some clear spring,  
that I hoped would quench the burning  
of the thirst I felt within.**

### **Chorus:**

**Hallelujah! I have found Him  
Whom my soul so long has craved!  
Jesus satisfies my longings,  
Thru His blood I now am saved.**

**Feeding on the husks around me,  
till my strength was almost gone,  
longed my soul for something better,  
only still to hunger on.**

**Chorus:  
Hallelujah! I have found Him  
Whom my soul so long has craved!  
Jesus satisfies my longings,  
Thru His blood I now am saved.**



**Poor I was, and sought for riches,  
something that would satisfy,  
but the dust I gathered round me  
only mocked my soul's sad cry.**

**Chorus:**

**Hallelujah! I have found Him  
Whom my soul so long has craved!  
Jesus satisfies my longings,  
Thru His blood I now am saved.**

**Well of water, ever springing,  
bread of life so rich and free,  
untold wealth that never faileth,  
my Redeemer is to me.**

**Chorus:  
Hallelujah! I have found Him  
Whom my soul so long has craved!  
Jesus satisfies my longings,  
Thru His blood I now am saved.**