

Series: Standfast In the Lord

# THE SECRET OF THE SATISFIED

## PHILIPPIANS 4:10-14

Text: Philippians 4:10-14

### ***Philippians 4:10-14***

*<sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. <sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. <sup>14</sup> Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*

Introduction:

Paul uses the word “content” in verse 11. This word speaks of “being satisfied with what one has, regardless of how small it might be.” Are you a contented person?

Being satisfied in life is a great treasure.

### **1 Timothy 6:6**

*<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

Someone has said that contentment sweetens our provisions, and makes a cottage as fair as a castle.”

We live in a world of discontented people! You might be saved and have much in this world and still not be content.

Rather than living lives of grateful contentment, our lives are often filled with complaining.

We “whine, pine and recline.”

We complain about our home when thousands have no home. We gripe about work when many have no jobs.

We fuss about our cars when many have never seen a car.

Why?

We have never learned the secret of contentment!

Quote:

Benjamin Franklin said, “Contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor.”

***Proverbs 13:7***

*<sup>7</sup> There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.*

There is a secret to satisfaction and Paul knew all about it.

**Philippians 4:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

He understood how to be content.

**Philippians 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things **I am instructed** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

He had learned how to be content.

Note what we see in this passage regarding the Secret of the Satisfied.

Note:

Sermon Content:

# **1. SECRET 1 – REJOICE IN YOUR SUBSTANCE (vs. 10, 12)**

## ***Philippians 4:10***

*<sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.*

## ***Philippians 4:12***

*<sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

Note 1 Timothy 6:7-8

## ***1 Timothy 6:7-8***

*<sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

Understand that God knows our needs and meets our needs in unusual ways.

Often here is how God meets our needs :

- He May Send It Directly

Elijah and the ravens, 1 Kings 17. He could send it from Heaven like He did the Manna, but He often chooses to use us, so that we can get a blessing too, ⇒ Widow of Zarepath — 1 Kings 17.

- He May Meet Our Need Through Others

The Philippians gift to Paul. Had been 10 years, but they sent to his needs. Had lacked opportunity, but when time came, they gave. ⇒ “flourished again.”

Like flowers in the spring after long, cold winter.

The Lord placed Paul on their mind and they sent to him a gift.

Illustration:

When our car transmission went out just after starting the church in MO.

Note:

When God lays something on your heart, do it! When you have an opportunity to do good, take it!

See - (Galatians 6:10)

**Galatians 6:10**

*<sup>10</sup> As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

Here is the key – regardless of what God provides we are to rejoice in it.

**Philippians 4:12**

*<sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

Sometimes it's harder to handle a lot than it is a little.

What does it take to satisfy you and me?

The first secret is to Rejoice In Your Substance.

Note the second secret.

## 2. SECRET 2 – REST IN YOUR SITUATION (VS. 11)

### ***Philippians 4:11***

*<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

Paul a contented man. In jail, not fretting or fuming.

In difficult situation, but content.

What does it mean to be contented?

#### A. Not Self-Satisfaction

We should never settle for less than our best.

We can be ambitious and still be right with God.

Should not be satisfied to be an office boy when could be President; to make C's when could make A's; to play 3rd string when could be All-American; to be mere Christian when could shake the world for God.

### ***Philippians 2:12***

*<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

**Philippians 3:14**

*<sup>14</sup> I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Note also:

**B. Not Self-Sufficiency**

We often hear preachers smile and tell us we can become a better you.

The truth is if we become a better you is only because of Him – the Lord.

He tells us without Him we can do nothing.

We have considered what it isn't but what is it?

**C. It Is Self-Surrender**

This allows us to ACCEPT our situation.

Illustration:

Some people like trapped animal chewing at circumstances.

The first secret is to Rejoice In Your Substance.

The second secret is to Rest In Your Situation



Note the one final secret.

### 3. REALIZE YOUR STRENGTH AND ITS SOURCE (VS. 13)

#### ***Philippians 4:13***

<sup>13</sup> *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Notice:

- Paul **Doesn't** Say "I Can't"

That is the language of **Pessimism**.

Many today have adopted this idea.

For the believer we should not be looking down but looking up.

- Paul **Does** Say "I Can"

This is language of **Presumption**.

But note the contrast of Paul and the rich fool in Luke 12:18.

#### ***Philippians 4:13***

<sup>13</sup> **I can** *do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

### **Luke 12:18**

<sup>18</sup> *And he said, This will I do: **I will** pull down my barns, and build greater; and there **will I** bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

Paul says “I can ... Through Christ”

This is the language of **Power**.

We can do what God leads us to do and instructs us to do through His power.

Understand:

The Lord gives power to face life's adversities. He gives the power to cope. He gives the power to enjoy contentment regardless of the circumstances.

### **Philippians 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

People succumb because they can't cope. He gives the power to face anything that comes our way with true contentment – He “strengthens me.”

**Philippians 4:13**

*<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Close:

I read of a poor farmer worked hard and had nothing.

When he died, his property was found to be sitting on a sea of oil.

He had a treasure he had never tapped into!

Are you content with what God has supplied?

Are you tapping the well of His power?