

## **“Contentment”**

I'm sure we all know one or two people in our lives who are not content with their situation in life - it might be their job, their marriage, their finances, their health, or dozens of other reasons. Merriam-Webster defines being content as *“to limit (oneself) in requirements, desires, or actions.”*

In thanking the Philippians for their generous support for him, in ch. 4:11-13 Paul wrote: *“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”* (NIV)

So...what was Paul's "secret" to success even when things went terribly wrong for him occasionally? I don't often do this, but let me share those same verses from the NKJV: *“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 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. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

That last sentence holds the secret! If we look at our problems or difficulties, or when we look at all the pain and suffering going on in the world, we can become frustrated and discouraged - which is exactly what our enemy wants us to do. But...when we cling to Jesus, lean upon Jesus, and put our faith, our hope, and our trust in JESUS, no matter what our circumstances are, we will be content!

I can't begin to tell you the number of difficult, frustrating and/or scary situations and circumstances I have gone through just since my wife was diagnosed with cancer four years ago, and then less than two months later passed away, leaving me with countless details to deal with that I was ill equipped to handle, plus moving twice since her death. It's been a hard season to walk through!

BUT GOD !! Don't feel sorry for me - I don't tell you this to get your sympathy, because I don't need it! I'm not saying I didn't need your prayers and support, because I desperately needed them, but through it all, I leaned hard on my faith in JESUS, and found out just how sufficient His grace is, and instead of being miserable, I, like Paul, learned to be content! Need contentment? Look to Jesus!! You too will find you can do and endure ALL things through HIS strength!! Amen!!