



# Learning to be Content

Philippians 4:10-13

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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

## Introduction

Where are you on the  
 “Contentment  
 Scale?”

- Extremely Content
- Mostly Content
- Somewhat Content
- Mostly Discontent
- Very Discontent

## Study Section

### Learning to be Content

#### 1. “Contentment” is not automatic—it must be learned.

**Philippians 4:10–11, NASB95** - <sup>10</sup> *But I rejoiced in [“in Christ,” in the genitive case, this Joy is ‘from’ Christ—He is the source of Joy] the Lord greatly [used only here in the NT], that now at last you have revived [no harshness in the Greek] your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.* <sup>11</sup> *Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content [lit., “to hold what you have been given,” from the root word meaning “satisfied” or “at rest”] in whatever circumstances I am.*

#### 2. “Contentment” depends on confidence in Christ (while happiness depends on circumstances).

**Philippians 4:11–12, NASB95** - <sup>11</sup> *Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.* <sup>12</sup> *I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*

**Philippians 4:12, TLB** - <sup>12</sup> *...I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation....*

#### 3. “Contentment” rests on two biblical truths:

##### A. God has ordained every circumstance in my life—for His glory.

**Proverbs 16:33, TLB** - <sup>33</sup> *We toss the coin, but it is the Lord who controls its decision.*

##### B. God will give me strength to do His will.

**Philippians 4:13, NASB95** - <sup>13</sup> *I can do [lit., ‘endure’] all [these] things through Him who strengthens me. [VERY IMPORTANT: This verse does not say, “I can do whatever I want to do.”]*

**Philippians 4:13, AMP** - *“I am self-sufficient only in Christ’s sufficiency.”*

## Life Application Section

### “When Things Don’t Go Well”

By Rev. Dr. Theodore Parker Ferris (Circa 1950s)  
 Wikipedia: “...one of the greatest preachers of this century.”

- A. Remember that there is nothing happening to you that has not happened to millions of others.
- B. Remember that as a human being, living on this earth, that you *secure the risks* of things not going well (italics added).
- C. Remember that there are people who became great facing what you now face.
- D. Remember, contentment is the confidence that if I need anything else, God will give it to me.
- E. Remember when things don’t go well this week, just say aloud, “God, since you are in control, I will be content...may Your purposes...and Your glory, not my comfort, be foremost my concern.”
- F. Remember, as a selected-saint sweetly surrendered to the Savior, your concern is God’s Glory, not your comfort.