

FINDING CONTENTMENT - PERFORMANCE

PRECEPT

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.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

PROMISE

While God commanded us to be content with what we have (Hebrews 13:5: “*Your conduct must be free from the love of money, and you must be content with what you have. For He has said, “I will never leave you and I will never abandon you.”*”), He also wants us to be a better version of ourselves. His desire for us to thrive and grow. We must not limit God for what He can do in our lives for His plans for us are greater than we can imagine. Jeremiah 29:11 gives us this promise where it says, “*I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* God wants us to dream big, for His plans for us are great and He will make them happen if we yield to Him. Ephesians 3:20 says, “*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His power that works in us.*” We are called to do big things, so we are also to dream big! In order for us to know if our goals are from God, we must reflect on these questions:

1. Do your dreams get you closer to God? (Big dreams strengthen your faith.)
2. Do your dreams make you and others better? (Big dreams make you and others prosper.)
3. Do your dreams glorify God, not yourself? (Big dreams glorify God, not yourself)

If you are not dreaming, you are not living. You are merely existing. Finding contentment in life is to dream with Jesus and set goals for Him. When we dream big, we must see God use us beyond what we think or ask. More than spending our time thinking about our earthly ambitions, let us plan about how God could use us to advance His kingdom. Paul reiterates that we can do anything through Christ, for our strength comes from Him. Philippians 4:12-13 tells us, “*I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*” Contentment can be found in Christ alone, He also is the one who gives us success in everything we do. True contentment is becoming what He wants us to be and doing what He wants us to do, all for His glory. There are no great people. There are great dreams/big goals/big visions. Great faith in the great God makes a person great. Let us follow Paul’s example in Philippians 3:12 where he said, “*I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.*” Whatever we do, let us dream big for God and use what He has entrusted us for His kingdom and glory!

PRACTICE

1. Dreams in Life. What are your dreams? What has kept you from pursuing those dreams?

2. Pursuing Your Dreams. Do you feel as though your life is on a path to achieving your dreams? Why or why not? What can you change today in order to pursue your dreams?

PRAYER

I. Giving

- Pray that with thankful hearts, our faithful stewardship will bear witness to His glory.

II. Missionaries

- Pray that we will take part of the going, sending, and supporting of God’s missionaries.

III. Provision

- Pray for provision for all of the needs of His people, and for us to bless others around us.

IV. World

- Pray for God to transform the hearts & minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression.

V. Peace

- Pray that God may grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace.

VI. Hope

- May the God of hope fill us with all joy & peace as we trust in Him, so that we may overflow with hope.

VII. Joy

- Remember Psalm 30:5 in your trials, “there may be pain in the night, but joy comes in the morning.”