

Joy-Full Living:
The Secret of Being Content
Wylie Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – October 15, 2023

Philippians 4:4-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. 10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been 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 everything through him who gives me strength.

The Secret of Being Content is to...

1. GIVE GOD THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that confess his name.

2. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you.

3. USE THE POWER OF GODLY THINKING

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

Colossians 3:1-2

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

The answer is, in spite of the circumstances...

- I KNOW THAT GOD LOVES ME

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

- I KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH ME

Hebrews 13:5

... God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

- I KNOW THAT I AM GOD'S CHILD

1 John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

- I KNOW THAT GOD WILL WORK THINGS TOGETHER FOR MY GOOD

Romans 8:28,

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Contentment results in...

4. GOD'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.