

April 26, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Phil. 4:11-13 *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 Christ Who strengthens me.* (NIV)

Paul begins by stating an important truth of abiding in the LORD: I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I am reminded of the two friends that met walking down the street. One asked the other how he was doing. "I'm doing okay under the circumstances." To which his friend replied, "what are you doing under the circumstances?" You see, as Christian believers, we are to live above the circumstances of this world. They have no hold on us except that which we give them. **Isa. 26:3** *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.* (NIV)

There was no doubt that Paul had been through the tortures of this earthly life. If he had focused on his circumstances, he would no doubt have slid into a state of despair. Having been beaten, shipwrecked, stoned, and thrown into multiple prisons, he could have easily given up or given in. But look at what he says about those things: *I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.* No matter how grim, or stressful, or painful, he then proclaims his most encouraging phrase: *I can do all this through Christ Who strengthens me.*

Again, living and experiencing real and abundant life comes from surrender to the Savior. It is in giving of ourselves to Him that we find true and overflowing life. The more of ourselves that we relinquish of ourselves, the more He fills us to overflowing. Will you surrender your all to Him today? It is the only place of true joy and fulfillment. He is longing for you to come into that place with Him.

Dear LORD, teach us Your ways today. Help us in our unbelief. Open our hearts up to follow you completely and not with conditional love. Show us Your plan today and help us to follow. In Jesus Name, Amen