

## Philippians 4:11

*Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

To start out today's devotional, let's look at the end of the story, and a familiar verse that we all seem to know and quote a lot, which is:

† **Philippians 4:13** *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Now I say the end of the story, even though it's not a story, but more of a teaching from Paul about being "**content**" "**learning**" and "**doing**" all in the strength of Jesus Christ. So, this verse is talking of being content:

† **Philippians 4:12** *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.*

But we tend to miss one particularly important word in today's verse, which is the word "**learned**". It's not like Paul because a Christian and "POOF" he is now content over night. No, he had to learn how to be content, and as believers, we too have to learn this ourselves. The reason we do is, before we came to Jesus, we were into ourselves, into our wants and our lusts after things, wanting the best in life. So, we now have to "**learn**" to be "**content**" with the things the Lord has provided for us a believers.

Before we came to the Lord, there may have been many times we barely had anything, and we think that we were content during those times. But the reality is that we hated it and we tried to do all that we could to get more, no matter who we used or walked over to get more.

That's not contentment, no, contentment is realizing that all we have in this world will one day all be gone. In fact, we will be gone as well, as we as believers will go to heaven; Therefore, all the things that we desired here on this earth will mean absolutely nothing to us in heaven. And contentment is realizing that we are waiting for heaven, where life will be amazing; Therefore, we do not lust after the things of this world any longer, but rather seek to spend eternity in Heaven with our Savior Jesus. We even learn to be truly content, to store up our treasures in heaven not on this earth.

† **Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT2)** *Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

What it comes down to is this. The more we learn about Jesus, the less we want things of this world, so we are content, knowing that our time here on earth is what some call, the waiting room, before we enter heaven.

Think about that. When you are in a waiting room, say at the doctor's office, there are magazines and coffee, and maybe water, along with a TV that the receptionist has control of what's on. But compared to what we have waiting for us at home, there is no comparison, because we know we have all sorts of things waiting for us at home.

At home we have magazines, as well as books and other reading material. We have more than just coffee and water, but all sorts of things to drink as well as eat. And the TV, yeah, our TVs are much bigger than the ones in the waiting room and we have control over what we watch on it. Plus, there is so much more in our homes, like our beds and computers and games and comfy sofa's and... So, if you think about it, you are content in the waiting room of the doctor's office, not because of what is there, but because you know once you leave and go home, there are far better things waiting for you there.

So if earth is the waiting room to get home to heaven, let's be content here, knowing that once we get there, it will be far better than anything here on the earth, simply because God and our Savior Jesus is there, and everything else we will see and have there will all be a bonus!

- † **John 14:1-4** *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."*
- † **Psalm 27:4** *One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.*
- † **1 Timothy 6:6-8** *Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*