

GSM

Philippians 4:10-19

I. Philippians 4:10

A. I rejoiced greatly in the Lord

1. Paul now speaks of the financial gift the Philippians just gave him through Epaphroditus.
2. Paul is rejoicing greatly not because he got money, but that the offering was an outworking of God in the lives of the church.
3. Seeing God move in our lives and the lives of others brings great joy

B. now at last your care for me as flourished again

1. **care-** Gr. *phroneo-* *thinking about*
2. **flourished again-** Gr. *anathallo-* to bud again after winter
3. Paul was going through a winter in his life and ministry. He was in prison and it seemed like nothing was happening. The finances into his ministry had stopped. It looked like nothing was going on
4. Paul did not let his circumstances get him down. He dug deep into God and received all he needed from Christ within him.
5. In the winter all visible and outward growth and activity ceases. However, the roots continue to grow downward.
6. Sometimes God will shut down all natural sources from you and this causes you to draw from Him.
7. Paul endured a winter, but it was not a winter of discontent.

C. though you surely did care- *think about me*

D. you lacked opportunity- Gr. *akaireomai-* *not in season*

1. The Philippians had not forgotten about Paul, it just was not the right season for them to give- either on their part or they did not know where Paul was.
2. We do not all go through the same seasons together as Christians. You might be in a winter while another Christian is in summer.
3. There will be seasons you give more than others. You need to be sensitive to God in your giving. Winter however is the time ground is tilled and seed is sown.
 - a. **Prov. 20:4-** A sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold, and will beg in harvest.
 - b. The tendency is to stop giving when things get tight in the natural. This is the season to sow
 - c. **2 Cor. 8:2-3-** The Philippians sowed their seed in winter. They sowed even in the midst of financial leanness.

d. Example: My testimony of increasing my giving when I was faced greater financial obligations and God met my needs.

II. Philippians 4:11

A. **Not that I speak in regard to need**

1. Paul is not bringing up the financial gift in order to get more from them or to whine. He was bringing it up to thank them, rejoice with them in the grace of God in their lives, and to teach them more

B. **for I have learned-** Gr. **manthano-** from **matheo-** *we get our word math from this.*

1. Paul had learned spiritual mathematics. Although in the natural when you multiply something by zero you get zero. But when you when have nothing and factor in God you- come up with any answer you need!

2. Paul learned to be sustained by God from the inside of him instead of outward resources.

C. **in whatever state I am in**

1. I don't care what state you are in, you can be content- even if it is Texas! [I am from Oklahoma!]

D. **wherewith to be content-** Gr. **autarkes-** *self sufficient*

1. This does not mean Paul handled life by himself

2. This means that he found all the resources he needed inside of himself. God lived in Paul. He lived from Christ on the inside of him! He lived from His union with Christ. Christ is the root for the Christian life. He is rooted in our spirit.

E. The Christian is seen as a palm tree- Ps. 92:12

1. A palm tree is different from all trees in that it receives its nutrients from the core of the tree instead of its bark. You can cut a ring in the bark around a tree and kill it. However, you can ring a palm tree and you cannot kill it because it does not receive its life from the bark. A Christian does not have to have outward circumstances to be good to be joyful and victorious. They are not dependent upon the flesh to live. They live from Christ in their core of their being! A Christian can take a ring and keep on singing!

III. Philippians 4:12

A. Paul now describes the ups and downs of life. Circumstances of life are a series of ups and downs. We don't have to be up and down with them. We can be held steady.

B. **I know**- Gr. **eido**- perfect tense- This knowledge had been used by Paul and was working in him.

C. how to be abased [**down**], how to abound [**up**], to be full [**up**], to be hungry [**down**], abound [**up**], suffer need [**down**]

D. This is a picture of a ship being tossed up and down on the waves. Life is like the waves of the sea that wants to toss us to and fro. The lows of life threaten to sink us and the highs of life tend to cause us to be uplifted in pride.

D. **instructed**- Gr. **meuo**- *to be initiated into an inner secret*- Paul knew a inner secret that kept him steady in the circumstances of life!

E. In the ancient world even large ships were sunk in bad storms because of the waves until the invention of the gyroscope. This was a wheel placed in the belly of the ship that spun rapidly. It caused the ship to stay steady. It kept the ship's nose from sinking too low and rising to high. It caused the ship to stay steady when it was hit from the right and the left. The Holy Spirit is our spiritual gyroscope. He is in the belly of our ship! The more we spend time in the Word of God and in prayer the faster this gyroscope spins and makes us be able to stand the worst of storms. Meditating the Word and praying in the Spirit are great ways to get the spiritual gyroscope to spinning in your life.

E. What held Paul steady in the ups and downs of his life was what he knew and had taught by and in the Lord. Notice in verses 11-12. **I have learned, I know, I now, I am instructed**. Again, we need to take in four times the spiritual input to properly put forth spiritual output- **learn, know, know, instructed- I can do all things...**

IV. Philippians 4:13

A. Many quote this verse out of context. It is connected with verse **11-12**

B. Paul could do all things because of what he learned, knew, and was taught

C. Also, people misquote this verse- They say, I can do all things. This is a misquotation of scripture. The verse actually says I can do all things **THROUGH CHRIST** who strengthens me. We can only do all things through the inward strengthening of Christ on the inside of us. We receive strength from Christ by allowing Him to teach us from His Word and through prayer.

D. Apart from Christ we can do nothing! **John 15:5**

E. Many Christians are trying to make it through the ups and downs of life without receiving the strengthening ministry of Christ on the inside of them. They are going up and down with the circumstances. They are

being rocked to the right and to the left. They have a spiritual gyroscope installed in the belly of their ship but it is not spinning because they have not sought the Lord in the Word or in praying in [by] the Spirit.

F. The power of Christianity is that no matter what the circumstance or environment a Christian can be victorious and full of joy and peace.

1. **1 Cor. 7:24-** The secret to flourishing in any climate is to abide there **WITH GOD!** You can thrive in any job, marriage, or ministry if you abide there **WITH GOD!**

V. Philippians 4:14

A. **You did well-** Gr. **kalos-** *a beautiful and useful thing*. Paul did not have to have the offering but it was useful and beneficial to him.

B. **shared-** Gr. **sugkoinoneo-** *co-sharing, partnered with*

C. **in my distress-** Gr. **thlipsis-** *pressure*

1. When we sow into others and share with them in the point of their pressure we ourselves will reap relief in our times of pressure.

VI. Philippians 4:15

A. **At the beginning of the gospel**

1. This was early in Paul's ministry.
2. Only one church supported him
3. We must realize when we first start off not many will be supporting us, but don't give up, trust in God. These early days of having to trust God is in preparation for the future. It is building faith and trust in God.

B. **no church shared-** Gr. **koinoneo-** *partnered with-* The ones who partner with you early on in your endeavors are truly gifts from God and are the most faithful and have the purest motives.

C. **concerning giving and receiving-** Amp- **opened up [a debit and credit] account in giving and receiving except you only.**

1. When we partner with a ministry we not only give, but we receive back from our giving in finances and spiritual things like revelation and wisdom.

VII. Philippians 4:16

A. **In Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need**

1. Paul left Philippi and went Thessalonica. The Philippians were so impacted by Paul's ministry they continued to support him from that day.

VIII. Philippians 4:17

A. not because I desire a gift

1. Paul was not saying this out of covetousness but out of thankfulness and to teach them and encourage their generosity in general.
2. Many in the ministry are into manipulation when it comes to money. They say things in hopes it will cause people to give to them. We need to watch our motives in regards to money- both the giving and receiving end of it

B. fruit to abound to your account- Gr. **logos**- *word or account*

1. fruit- *increase; interest*
2. This is in connection with the previous verse where they had opened an account of giving and receiving. Many take this verse only in connection to heaven- that in heaven we will receive fruit from our natural giving.
3. This is primarily speaking in context of receiving increase now! Paul is about to declare that God shall supply all their needs!
4. fruit speaks of supernatural supply.
5. The word fruit tells us that the giving was done in and by the Spirit- it was given in love and faith. It was given from a pure motive. When we give in the Spirit, we will reap fruit. Many are just sowing money and not seeing much in return. This is because they are not giving in love and faith.
6. Most people are giving to be blessed. We should give because we realize we are blessed. **Eph. 1:3** Blessed people give. Abraham was first blessed by Melchisidek and then he gave! **Gen. 14:20**