

**GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU**  
**Philippians 4:10-19**

**(Read Philippians 4:10-19)**

**Intro:** The old hymn is so true:

*Be not dismayed whate'er betide*

*God will take care of you*

*Beneath His wings of love abide*

*God will take care of you*

**SING WITH ME**

*God will take care of you*

*Through every day, o'er all the way*

*He will take care of you*

*God will take care of you*

And he will! And that is exactly Paul's point here in his thank you note to the Philippians.

We have experienced this here at ABC. We have experienced the truth YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD over and over again.

Kathy and I have experienced this over the years as we face seemingly insurmountable hurdles, whether it was a physical concern or a financial crisis but as we forged ahead with our feeble faith God came through. He took care of us. Time after time. Over the years we have progressed from young marrieds with no money going to college and living on love to older people with no money – but it's not because our bank accounts are empty, it is because we realize that what we have really isn't ours – it's God's. These days we strive to steward what God has provided us. We have been blessed by God's provision and it has often been through the generosity of others, so what we have done rather than figure out how we can pay that back, we have been alert for ways to pay it forward, as it were. We have reveled in what Paul is telling us here in Philippians 4 when he implies very forcefully . . .

**It's Good to Be Givers**

- Paul reminded the Philippians that his thankfulness for their giving wasn't because he was needy (even though he was, in fact, in need), but because it was good for them to be givers. Paul's joy in the gift is not in what it did for him, but in what it did for them. It was not that he did not value the gift for its own sake; but his greatest joy was that it and the love which prompted it were dear to God. We will talk more about this at the end of this talk – but suffice it to say we are never poorer for having given.
- F. B. Meyer wrote, "*The Philippians were just doing more of what they've always been doing. Paul wants to affirm that generosity. At the same time he wants to make it clear that he's not dependent on their gifts, and he doesn't want to sound like he's asking for anything more, because he's not. God gives us what we need, and what is necessary and helps us to face every situation.*"
- When you think about Paul is bragging on the Philippians in the way he bragged on them to Corinthians. Listen to this, *We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia (HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE PHILIPPIANS HERE!), for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.* 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. They begged earnestly for the favor of giving! They gave themselves FIRST TO THE LORD and then by the will of God. They knew the joy of giving!
- So while Paul is not seeking gifts for himself, he is reveling in what it does to the givers in Philippi. Giving is a sweet offering,
- So then Paul moves on to a short teaching that is on the same line, but is very helpful on the subject of contentment. The sad words of playwright, Neil Simon, kind of make the segue for us, *Money brings some happiness. But after a certain point, it just brings more money.* As you can see . . .

**Contentment Is Not Natural**

- Paul had to learn contentment because it just isn't natural to mankind. Just think about it:
  - Discontent has been the driver of every kind of breakthrough – whether it's in transportation or medicine or technology or ANYTHING!
  - I mean a baby is not content to crawl – instead he learns to walk.
  - Grady got a new bicycle for Christmas and it has training wheels on it – but at some point if he wants to make progress he will not be content with those extra wheels slowing him down.
  - Discontent has even caused **progress in our spiritual life** – and it's referred to by the words “Holy Discontent” and is defined as “*a sense that there's something more to God's plan and purpose for one's life than what is currently being experienced.*” And this is how we grow into greater Christlikeness.
- But Paul is talking about the kind of discontent that gets ahead of God – in fact it's kind of selfish and arrogant and either forgets or ignores God's plan for us. So Paul uses a word for “content” in the original language, that would have been characterized a school of thought which was prevalent in his day and likely very familiar to the Philippians – Stoicism. This Greek word Paul used describes a person who was self-sufficient and who has learned to do everything on his own, by his own effort. William Barclay makes an interesting point that Paul was dealing with the teaching of the Stoic School of thought when he addresses contentment. Listen,

*“In order to achieve content, the Stoics abolished all desires and eliminated all emotions. Love was rooted out of life and caring was forbidden. As T. R. Glover said, ‘The Stoics made of the heart a desert, and called it a peace.’ We see at once the difference between the Stoics and Paul. The Stoic said, “I will learn content by a deliberate act of my own will.” Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who infuses his strength into me.” For the Stoic contentment was a human achievement; for Paul it was a divine gift. The Stoic was self-sufficient; but Paul was God-sufficient. Stoicism failed because it was inhuman; Christianity succeeded because it was rooted in the divine. Paul could face anything, because in every situation he had Christ; the man who walks with Christ can cope with anything.”*

- In other words, by learning to be content in EVERY situation Paul has learned to be content by being Christ-sufficient. Yes! Christ is our sufficiency. He is all we need.
- And that is why Paul and any Christ Follower can truly say . . .

### **I Can Do All Things . . .**

- When it's actually God doing it . . .
- You see, with Jesus, who infuses his power into me, I can do anything! It's not anything that I can do, but it's because of his power and his will working out in me. The secret of independence is complete dependence on God. “I can do all things. . .” does not mean we are super human but that we serve a great God who can do all things and who gets us through all things.
- The problem is too many try to take God's place and act as though we are the one's doing all things. David Guzik tells us, “*Unfortunately, many people take this verse out of context and use it to reinforce a “triumphalist” or “super-Christian” mentality, instead of seeing that the strength of Jesus in Paul's life was evident in his ability to be content when he did suffer need.*”
- Paul did not want to give the impression that the Philippians had somehow done something wrong in supporting him. In fact he is actually showing them that the giving of the Philippians was better for them than it was for him. It's a truth: Godly giving actually does more good for the giver than for the one who receives – in Barclay's words, “. . . *we are never the poorer for having given.*” Someone else said, *God will never be our debtor, and we can never out-give God.* THERE IT IS AGAIN!!!
- The promise is, from Paul, *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:19. God will take care of you. The promise is to supply all your need; but it is all your need and not a promise to go beyond needs. Giving isn't a get rich scheme it's an act of faith and generosity that expects God to care for us and provide for us. In so many words Paul is saying “*It's not your money that I'm after, what I'm after is to see you growing in your spirit-led generosity.*”

- Here's what it comes down to – all things are possible to those who draw their daily strength from God. And finally this . . .

**Conclusion:** We can do amazing things by giving. Paul is telling us that Godly giving actually does more for the giver than the receiver. That's not why we give, but it is a simple truth and promise. We've been on the receiving end and the just in time delivery of a needed financial infusion is wonderful. It's an enormous sense of relief – but also being on the giving end is even more wonderful too. We know what a huge lift it was for us to receive and so in addition to knowing we are doing what God did for us and what he desires for us, we get the blast of knowing what a blessing it is. It's this, it's just plain old exhilarating to be part of God's plan. And, God WILL take care of you – it's a promise. Amen.