

April 24, 2022

A Fresh Look (Philippians 4:10-13)

by Warren Berkley

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:10-13)

When you are the needy recipient of help and concern from good people, it causes joy. Even if tangible help isn't within their means, the fact they want to help and will help you when they can – is a cause of joy. Paul rejoiced in the Lord, knowing of the love and concern of the Philippian Christians. Even when they were unable to help, Paul knew their heart longed to send help, and that they would when they had opportunity.

And, this was not a case where Paul merely wanted his needs met. Because, he had learned – in whatever situation – to be content just serving the Lord and relying on the Lord for his daily need (perhaps not knowing for certain how those needs would be met, but believing God would care for him).

In Paul's life and service to the Lord, he had learned this rare contentment, often not knowing how needs would be met. He had learned by the experience

of faith, how to live in the low places. Yet, was able to maintain good humility in the high places. That character is described here as "the secret of facing plenty and hunger."

Someone might ask, "what course can I take to learn this secret?" Or, "what book can I read... what video or seminar can I see or visit?"

Paul learned this contentment through his life and service to the Lord. And he describes it like this: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

This didn't mean Paul was a Superhero with powers, or that he could fly or become visible or invisible at will. Active faith in Christ does not afford us the ability to do any impossible thing we can conceive! Dismiss that popular concept.

It means, the believer can do all that Christ expects him to do, with the full measure of strength required for the tasks.

Phil. 4:9 is not some magical incantation that enables the positive mental attitude believer to achieve the impossible, work miracles and do sensational but useless things.

It is a simple description of how Paul learned contentment; how he was able to live down low in the dungeon and yet remain humble in higher places.

It applies to believers today but must not be taken as a blank check or a ticket

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Cedar Park - gospel meeting April 24-27.

Benchley - gospel meeting April 28 - May 1.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

admitting us to the impossible.

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Jude 17-25

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams is home but still has very limited mobility.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing chemo.

Jim Trammel had his heart tests and is waiting for some imaging on his lungs.

Wilma Shipley broke her foot.

Jimmy Stinnett is having an irregular heart rhythm and will be having a stress test.

Melba Johnson tested positive for Covid this past week, but no severe symptoms so far.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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