

# IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Discipleship Lessons From the Life of the Apostles





# HOW DO YOU FIND CONTENTMENT?

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# 1. How do you find contentment?





*Philippians 4:11-12*

**<sup>11</sup> I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> 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.**





## **2. The road to a life of contentment**





*Philippians 3:5-6 (NLT)*

<sup>5</sup> I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. <sup>6</sup> I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.





## *Acts 26 (NLT)*

**<sup>9</sup> “I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. <sup>10</sup> Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death.**





## *Acts 26 (NLT)*

**<sup>11</sup> Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.**

**<sup>12</sup> “One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests.**





## *Acts 26 (NLT)*

**<sup>13</sup> About noon, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. <sup>14</sup> We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.’ <sup>15</sup> “‘Who are you, lord?’ I asked. “And the Lord replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting.**





## *Acts 26 (NLT)*

**<sup>16</sup> Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. <sup>17</sup> And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles**





*Acts 26 (NLT)*

**<sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'**









## *2 Corinthians 11 (NLT)*

**<sup>23</sup> I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.**





## ***2 Corinthians 11 (NLT)***

**26 I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.**





## *2 Corinthians 11 (NLT)*

**<sup>27</sup> I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. <sup>28</sup> Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.**





# 3. The secret to contentment





# Four important considerations

**a. Not complacency**

**b. Through experience**





## *Romans 5 (NLT)*

**<sup>3</sup> We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.**

**<sup>5</sup> And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.**





# **Four important considerations**

**No complacency  
Through experience**

**Fruit of the Spirit  
Spirit of Christ within**





*Philippians 4:13 (NLT)*

**13 For I can do everything through him,  
who gives me strength.**





*Philippians 3:8 (NLT)*

**<sup>8</sup> Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.**





*John 15:5*

**Apart from me you can do nothing**





**Secret**  
**Living Christ**  
**Gaining Christ**  
**Being** in Christ





## *1 Timothy 6:6-8*

**<sup>6</sup> Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. <sup>7</sup> After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. <sup>8</sup> So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.**





# **Right Attitude**

**Align your heart with Scripture**

**Give thanks in all things**

**Rest in God's providence**

**Learn to live with little**

**Live above life's circumstances**

**Rely on God's power and provision**

**Consider well-being of others**





# **4. Is Christ sufficient for me?**





# Our response

a. **Invite** Christ into your circumstances

b. Affirm the **sufficiency** of Christ

c. Embrace the **supremacy** of Christ





***Philippians 1:21***

**For to me to live is Christ,  
and to die is gain.**





# Summary

- **Learn to invite Christ into your circumstances**
- **Confidently affirm the sufficiency of Christ**
- **Gladly embrace the supremacy of Christ**





*Philippians 4:11, 13*

**<sup>11</sup> I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.**





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