

The Secret of Contentment (Philippians 4:10-20 NIV)
Anchored in Christ: A Journey to Joy and Peace (Part 4 of 4)
Pekin First Church of the Nazarene Sunday, June 29, 2025
Pastor Lloyd Brock, *NWIL District Superintendent*

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, Pekin First Nazarene! It is a genuine privilege to stand before you today as we bring our June summer series, “Anchored in Christ: A Journey to Joy and Peace,” to its powerful conclusion. For the past three weeks, we’ve been on an incredible expedition through Philippians Chapter 4, uncovering profound truths that are designed to reshape our inner world, no matter what storms or sunshine life brings our way. Each week has built upon the last, guiding us to a deeper understanding of what it means to live a life genuinely “anchored in Christ.”

Today, our journey culminates in Philippians 4:10-20. At first glance, this passage might seem like a simple “thank you” letter from Paul for a financial gift. And yes, it absolutely is that! But to stop there would be like seeing only the tip of an iceberg. Beneath the surface lies magnificent truths about what it means to live a life of profound contentment, a contentment so robust that it naturally spills over into overflowing generosity, and ultimately, a contentment that unequivocally points back to our unchanging anchor: Jesus Christ.

Today’s Scripture Reading (Philippians 4:10-20 NIV)

*“I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were always concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.** 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. **I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.** Nonetheless, it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. **And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**”*

KEY POINT 1: Unlocking Authentic _____ Contentment _____ (Philippians 4:10-12)

Transformational Verse:

Philippians 4:11b – “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”

- Think of a mighty oak tree or outdoor campfire versus a pot belly stove.

KEY POINT 2: The Unstoppable _____ Power Source _____ (Philippians 4:13)

Transformational Verse:

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”

This is not self-improvement; this is divine enablement. This is not tapping into our own human potential; this is drawing directly from the inexhaustible, limitless power of God Himself. The strength Paul speaks of isn't just emotional resilience; it's a spiritual fortitude that allows him to thrive in environments where others would crumble. Our strength isn't in our numbers, our budget, or our programs; it's in the limitless power of our God, working through us.

- Think about a deep-sea diver or a powerful electric car.

KEY POINT 3: The Overflow of _____ Generosity _____ (Philippians 4:14-20)

Here's the incredible, paradigm-shifting truth: their financial gift, their practical act of generosity, was not just money, not just currency changing hands. It was supernaturally transformed into a “fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” Paul deliberately uses Old Testament language here, reminiscent of the sweet-smelling sacrifices offered in the temple that brought pleasure to God. This means that when we give – whether it's our time, our unique talents, or our financial resources – out of a heart that is anchored in Christ, a heart of joyful contentment and love for God, our giving transcends the mundane. It ascends directly to God as a beautiful aroma, a profound act of worship that delights Him.

Transformational Verse:

Philippians 4:19 *“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.”*

- Think of a deep, massive reservoir.

CONCLUSION - My challenge to you, Pekin First Nazarene, is this:

- 1. Confront your contentment gaps.** Where in your life are you still chasing external fixes for internal peace? This week, consciously acknowledge those areas before God. Then, with deliberate intention, practice gratitude for what you *do* have, and choose to trust Him as your ultimate, all-satisfying source of contentment. It's a choice.
- 2. Activate Philippians 4:13.** The next time you feel overwhelmed, inadequate, or face a daunting challenge, resist the urge to rely solely on your own grit or problem-solving. Instead, consciously pause, breathe, and declare aloud, “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”
- 3. Cultivate an overflow of generosity.** Take an honest look at your giving – your time, your talents, your financial resources. Is it a joyful, worshipful act, a “fragrant offering” to God, or does it feel like a reluctant obligation? Ask God to radically transform your heart, to cultivate in you a spirit of overflowing generosity that mirrors His own.

Let's step out of this place today as a people deeply anchored in Christ, demonstrating authentic contentment and radiating an overflowing generosity that points everyone around us to the incredible joy and peace found only in Him.

CLOSING SONG - “*Cornerstone*” by Hillsong

TRANSFORMATIONAL MEMORY VERSES

Philippians 4:11b *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”*

Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”*

Philippians 4:19 *“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:20 *“TO OUR GOD AND FATHER BE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.”*