



November 12, 2017 | Generosity | 1 Tim 6:6-10; Phil. 4:11-13

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**Ice breaker:**

What is something that was difficult for you to learn but that you mastered after much practice?

**Contentment Leads to Generosity**

We're continuing our two-part series on Generosity. Last week we saw the state of person's heart is more important than their gift and even small gifts can have significant impact. This week we'll see that contentment can lead to generosity.

Read Philippians 4:11-13:

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)*

[Q] In which situations and circumstances does Paul say that he is content? Why can he say this?

[Q] We don't usually think of plenty and abundance as barriers to contentment. How might plenty and abundance get in the way of being content?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10:

*But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (ESV)*

[Q] Many of us have much more than just food and clothing. In what area of your life do you need to learn contentment?

[Q] What are some barriers to learning contentment for you in this area?

Review Philippians 4:13 and read 4:4-7:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.<sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;<sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)*

[Q] What is Paul's secret of contentment?

[Q] How might this process Paul describes lead to contentment? Have you seen this in your life? Please explain

[Q] Read the following quote and discuss what you think about it:

"Contentment is a deep satisfaction with the will of God."

— Nancy Wilson, *Learning Contentment*

Read Philippians 4:19:

*And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (NIV1984)*

[Q] What needs are you trusting God with? How would this trust free you to be more generous?

[Q] What steps will you take to learn contentment *in whatever situation* this week?

## Pray

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As you learn contentment, ask God to give you a heart of generosity.

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Next week is World Outreach Weekend.