

**PIVOT – Uncompromising Flexibility**  
**Principle #8 - When you've got nothing left to give,**  
"PASAN, PONTI, PANTOTE, PASAN, PAN"

• **'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'** Phil. 4:13

Paul tells the Philippians, "Put into PRACTICE what you LEARNED from watching me put into PRACTICE what I have LEARNED."

Learned = disciplined, trained himself to think and behave like his rabbi; processing his circumstances like learning the process of solving algebra problems.

• **'I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.'**  
Phil. 4:11

What specifically has he LEARNED? CONTENTMENT = self-sufficiency, self-control, self-management (in or through HIM).

CONTENTMENT = the ability to properly manage yourself and your resources (whether a lot or a little) with JOY, PEACE, GENTLENESS and THANKFULNESS.

• **What is the thought process?**

He realizes that PEOPLE CARE. He's part of the BODY. v. 10

He has ACQUIRED the SKILL to use his resources. v. 11

He knows that the Christian life includes both the POSSIBILITY/PROBABILITY of abundance and of scarcity. v. 12

"learned the secret" = initiated into, learned by experiencing  
He is not ALONE. He is not UNPREPARED. He is not UNAWARE.

• **'And God can abundantly supply ALL grace, so that in EVERY way that you need it, at ALL times that you need it, with ALL contentment, you can abound in EVERY good deed.'** 2 Cor 9:8

**All** Grace – every blessing/resource I need; financial and every other.

**Every** way – every circumstance that may arise.

**All** times – whenever a need or opportunity arises.

**All** contentment – ability to manage the resources with **joy, peace, and thanksgiving**.

**Every** good deed – ministry opportunity, meeting the needs of the body.

• **The results:**

Gratefulness to God in and through us v. 11

Gratefulness to God in and through others v. 12

Glory to God v. 13

**Life Group Discussion Questions – June 21, 2020**

Philippians 4:12-13 ***I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***

**QUICK REVIEW**

1. Last week, Pastor Phil shared with us three qualities of a Godly coach. Before looking at your notes, what qualities would you look for in a spiritual mentor? Why are these coach qualities attractive to you? Compare your answers with Phil's three assertions.

2. Read Philippians 3:12-16. How do our past failures affect our lives today and in the future? How should we be dealing with these disappointments?

**MY STORY**

1. What is the best thing that has ever happened to you? Share with the group – it could be anything like buying a house, graduating from college, winning a championship.

2. Was there a season of hardship in your life where you knew you were being watched in how you dealt with it? Were you able to rejoice and become a testimony for the Gospel? If you had a do-over, would it look any different? How so?

3. Are you content? Can you remember a time when you were not content? What caused this? What do you think the root cause of discontentment is? Make a list of opposites of contentment.

**GOING DEEP (read Philippians 4)**

1. Re-read verse 11. Paul says that he has learned to be content; that his thankfulness was not based on his needs. Said another way, he has acquired a skill. Specifically, how did Paul gain this knowledge and ability? How does he then use this "tool" to advance the Gospel message?

2. Verse 13 is often pulled out of context as a sort of superman verse telling Christians we can do anything. Looking at it in context, what can we learn about what Paul is really saying? (see John 15:5 and Philippians 3:7-9)

3. How well are you stewarding the resources God has given you? Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10.

4. Why was Paul so happy with the generosity of the Philippian church (v. 15-16)? How did their generosity profit them? What are the most common reasons for not giving today? How can you be blessed when you give out of an already tight budget? (see Malachi 3:10)

**PUTTING IT TOGETHER:**

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?

2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?