

Philippians 4:10-12

REJOICE IN WHATEVER CIRCUMSTANCES

Philippians 4:10-12

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

¹¹ Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

¹² 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.

Philippians 4:10

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Charis Family of Words in Philippians

<u>Chapter 1</u>	<u>Chapter 2</u>	<u>Chapter 3</u>	<u>Chapter 4</u>
2 - grace	2 - joy	1 - rejoice	1 - joy
3 - thank	9 - given		4 - rejoice
4 - joy	17 - rejoice		4 - rejoice
7 - grace	17 - joy		6 - thanksgiving
18 - rejoice	18 - rejoice		10 - rejoiced
18 - rejoice	18 - joy		15 - giving
25 - joy	28 - rejoice		23 - grace
29 - given	29 - joy		

"...I rejoiced in the Lord.."

- Philippians 3:1, "Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord.**"
- Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; **again I will say, rejoice!**"
- Paul does not tell the believers in Philippi to "rejoice in the Lord", without being a prime example of "rejoicing in the Lord" himself

Paul practiced what he preached!

More of Paul's examples

- Philippians 1:18, "...in this **I rejoice**. Yes, and **I will rejoice**"
- Philippians 2:17-18, "¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, **I rejoice and share my joy with you all.**"
- ¹⁸ You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me."

Paul practiced what he preached!

Philippians 4:10

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last **you have revived your concern for me**; indeed, **you were concerned before**, but you lacked opportunity.

The froneo family of words in Phil

1:7 - froneo	3:15 - froneo
2:2 - froneo	3:16 - froneo
2:2 - froneo	3:19 - froneo
2:3 - tapeinofrosune	4:2 - froneo
2:5 - froneo	4:10 - froneo

Last time froneo is used in Philippians. It is mentioned twice here in 4:10 in reference to the Philippian believers **care** for Paul

The believers at Philippi had taken it upon their hearts to support Paul in ministry

Philippians 1:3-7,

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of **your participation in the gospel from the first day until now**. ⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus**. ⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since **both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me**.

And also...

Philippians 4:15-17,

¹⁵ You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, **no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone**; ¹⁶ **for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs**. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account."

Paul's practice was not to require or even request support as he ministered

- 1 Corinthians 9:11-12, ¹¹ "If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, **we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ**. (also see 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
- Paul typically sought to cover his ministry expenses by making tents (Acts 18:3; 20:34; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8)

So what is Paul saying in Phil 4:10?

- ¹⁰ "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity."
- Paul is not implying that the church in Philippi had forgotten him for a time, but now that Paul had been imprisoned for some time, he could no longer provide for his own needs

What we see in Philippians & the New Testament letters about money...

- Paul is thankful to the Lord about the support gifts from the believers in Philippi
- This is consistent with what he & the other apostles said & didn't say about money for support of the gospel
- We see nothing in the New Testament letters in support of browbeating, arm twisting, guilt trips, pledges, faith promises, funding campaigns or "tithes" to a church
- Instead...

2 Corinthians 9:7

- Each one must do [his giving] just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*Biblical giving is not rooted in rules & peer pressure, but entirely in one's
personal relationship with the Lord*

Philippians 4:11

¹¹ Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

Keywords in Philippians 4:11

- **I have learned:** Greek *manthanō* - learn as a disciple
- The Lord has taught Paul in this area
- This word is in the active voice here – Paul has been actively learning from the Lord regarding contentment in all circumstances

Remember our key points in 4:9

- The words "learned" & "received" & "heard" & "seen" are all connected with "**and**"
- This is for **emphasis!**
- It is also to link all the ways that we learn: *spoken & written & lived out* in another's life – like Paul's was
- The Greek words "learned" & "received" & "heard" & "seen" are all in the active voice
- Being spiritually equipped is not a spectator sport! (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Keywords in Philippians 4:11

- **content:** Greek *autarkes* = *autos* + *arkeō* = self + suffice. Self-sufficient, adequate.
- This word was used by pagan Stoic philosophers to convey that a person should be sufficient entirely in himself
- **BUT!** Paul is going to make a radical departure from Stoic philosophy in verse 13

Paul's radical Departure

- Stoic philosophers taught that each person should be self sufficient all out of his own resources & strength, but...
- Paul will make the clear point in verse 13 that Paul's apparent self sufficiency is entirely because of the Lord's strength – because He is entirely sufficient!
- Through Paul's suffering God had taught the apostle, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

Philippians 4:12

¹² 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 know...have learned... in any and every circumstance

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • humble means | • prosperity |
| • going hungry | • being filled |
| • suffering need | • having abundance |

*But there are some key words
that Paul is using that we need
to examine...*

Philippians 4:12

¹² **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.

Keywords in Philippians 4:12

- **I know**: Greek *oida* = to know by perception
- This word is given in the Greek text of Philippians as a perfect active indicative
- **perfect**: completed past action with ongoing results into the future (implies permanence)
- **active**: Paul actively knows these things
- **indicative**: it is a statement of fact

Keywords in Philippians 4:12

- **I have learned the secret**: Greek *mueō* - to learn the secret of something through personal experience or as the result of initiation
- This verb was used by the pagan mystery religions in the Roman Empire to describe their teaching of the secret knowledge – the revealing of mysteries to the initiate
- This word is given in the Greek text of Philippians as a perfect passive indicative