

**Philippians –
Above the Circumstances**

Phil 4:10-13

Utterly Content!

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 4:10-13 Utterly Content

Vs 10 – Context: Sacrificial Giving

- **Vs. 11-13 A personal reflection**
- **The joy of seeing believers flourish spiritually**
- **Paul was more often a ‘receiver’ instead of a ‘giver’**
- **It is sometimes easier to give than to receive!**

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 4:10-13 Utterly Content

Vs 10 – Context: Sacrificial Giving

Vs 11,12 – Secrets of Utter Contentment

- **No unmet needs! (vs. 11a)**

Needs or Wants? Rights or Privileges?

- **Peacefully bloom where God plants you (vs. 11b-12)**

- **Contentment is learned – and you can learn it**

- **Contentment is not dependent on the circumstances, but instead is learned in the circumstances**

- **Contentment is being at peace with where God has you**

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 4:10-13 Utterly Content

Vs 10 – Context: Sacrificial Giving

Vs 11,12 – Secrets of Utter Contentment

Vs 13 – Not *self*-sufficiency but *God*-sufficiency

- Paul is not speaking of resilience and self-reliance
- ‘to be content’ – the aim of stoicism:
 - Getting to the point where you don’t care what happens
 - An act of the will and mind to finally abolish all desires
- **Biblical contentment: a work of God within us**
 - Experiencing God and His grace to be sufficient (II Cor 12:9)
 - Finding our deepest desires and our truest needs completely fulfilled in Christ!

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 4:10-13 Utterly Content

Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.

*God knows what He's doing
God is doing what He wants
What He wants is good!*

*My grace is sufficient for you... therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties.
(II Cor 12:9,12)*