**UNCERTAIN: CERTAIN FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

**Are We Good?**

**Phil 4:11-13**

Download

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1:** Philippians 4:11 (AMP)

Not that I speak from [any personal] need, for I have learned to be content [and self-sufficient through Christ, satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or uneasy] regardless of my circumstances.

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**Day 2:** 2 Corinthians 12:10 (TPT)

So I’m *not defeated* by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I’m surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution *because of my love* for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God’s power.

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**Day 3:** James 2:5 (NLT)

Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren’t they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?

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**Day 4:** Philippians 4:12 (NLT)

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

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**Day 5:** 1 Peter 5:10 (TPT)

And then, after your brief suffering, the God of all loving grace, who has called you to share in his eternal glory in Christ, will personally and powerfully restore you and make you stronger than ever. Yes, he will set you firmly in place and build you up.

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**Discussion Guide:**

1. In what area of life are you most apt to play the comparison game? Give an example. Does Social Media play a role in that temptation?

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2. How does the comparison game end and what are the results?

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3. What circumstances in your life has God worked through to teach you the art of being content?

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4. The struggle to be content is real. Why? What is the key to winning the battle?

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5. “Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, contentment is the realization of how much you already have.” Explain how you have experienced that this year.

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6. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8. *“Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.”* Why do so many people believe that money will buy happiness? Have you experienced the disappointment of that false belief?

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7. How do you distinguish between needs and wants? What is the result if we fail to distinguish between the two?

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8. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (TPT). *“To all the rich of this world, I command you not to be wrapped in thoughts of pride over your prosperity, or rely on your wealth, for your riches are unreliable and nothing compared to the living God. Trust instead in the one who has lavished upon us all good things, fulfilling our every need.* *Remind the wealthy to be rich in good works of extravagant generosity, willing to share with others. This will provide a beautiful foundation for their lives and secure for them a great future, as they lay their hands upon the meaning of true life.”* How has serving God locally or internationally with those in need, broadened your perspective on what it means to be rich? Did God use those experiences to reset your values?

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9. What secret to contentment did Paul find? How can you follow Paul’s example?

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**Digging Deeper:**

**Barnes** comments that when one goes suddenly from one state to another, from high to low or filled to empty, that "it is in these sudden reverses that grace is most needed, and in these rapid changes of life that it is most difficult to learn the lessons of calm contentment. People get accustomed to an even tenor of life, no matter what it is, and learn to shape their temper and their calculations according to it. But these lessons of philosophy vanish when they pass suddenly from one extreme to another, and find their condition in life suddenly changed. The garment that was adapted to weather of an uniform temperature, whether of heat or cold, fails to be suited to our needs when these transitions rapidly succeed each other. Such changes are constantly occurring in life. God tries his people, not by a steady course of prosperity, or by long-continued and uniform adversity, but by transition from the one to the other; and it often happens that the grace which would have been sufficient for either continued prosperity or adversity, would fail in the transition from the one to the other. Hence, new grace is imparted for this new form of trial, and new traits of Christian character are developed in these rapid transitions in life, as some of the most beautiful exhibitions of the laws of matter are brought out in the transitions produced in chemistry. The rapid changes from heat to cold, or from a solid to a gaseous state, develop properties before unknown, and acquaint us much more intimately with the wonderful works of God. The gold or the diamond, unsubjected to the action of intense heat, and to the changes produced by the powerful agents brought to bear on them, might have continued to shine with steady beauty and brilliancy; but we should never have witnessed the special beauty and brilliancy which may be produced in rapid chemical changes. And so there is many a beautiful trait of character which would never have been known by either continued prosperity or adversity. There might have been always a beautiful exhibition of virtue and piety, but not tidal special manifestation which is produced in the transitions from the one to the other. (<https://www.studylight.org/commentary/philippians/4-11.html>)

1. How would you describe the method God uses to teach lessons on calm contentment? Give an example of how you have experienced this.

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2. In light of this fresh understanding, how do we best cooperate with God during times of sudden reverses, when we have been shaken from self-sufficiency and we are struggling to experience contentment?

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