

Living Above Your Circumstances

Learning to rely on God's strength in any circumstance, whether good or bad

Sermon #47 *Philippians 4:10-13* Chris Mueller

Introduction:

PCP

CIRCUMSTANCES

URW

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. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

To live above circumstances, you must depend on God's providence, care, and power

#1 Greatly rejoicing in the Lord's _____ in ministry

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.

Ephesians 1:11 who works all things after the counsel of His will Romans 8:28 all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive Esther 4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?

#2 Trusting in God's _____ with little or much in ministry

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.

Jeremiah Burroughs *"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."*

Luke 3:14 Be content with your wages 1 Timothy 6:8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content Hebrews 13:5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have 2 Corinthians 12:10 well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake 1 Timothy 6:6 actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you

#3 Finding God's _____ to face any difficulty in ministry

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

TAKE HOME

A=Keeping your focus on _____ will cause you to live above your difficulties on earth
2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

B=Moment by moment dependence on God's _____ will keep you steady in the storms

C=Modeling the Philippians' commitment to support Paul should change your _____
Luke 19:8 Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.

D=Relying on God's Providence, Care, and Power is only possible for _____
1 Peter 1:3 caused you to be born again

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE CHANGE - Living above circumstances

1. What is the difference between those who live UNDER and those who live ABOVE their circumstances?
2. What blessings come to those who seek to live ABOVE their circumstances?
3. What daily choices can be made to depend upon God's PROVIDENCE, CARE, and POWER?
4. Who is the most CONTENTED believer that you know, and how do they live differently than those who are discontent?
5. Why is CONTENTMENT rarely talked about or sought by Christians today?
6. How can thinking of HEAVEN and thinking deeply about CHRIST help with living above your circumstances?
7. What kind of heart did the Philippians have when it came to GIVING, and how can you cultivate that same kind of heart?

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