

06

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

THE JOY OF GIVING



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

For most of us, it is not hard to think of gifts that we would like to receive. It might be harder, however, to think of gifts we have received that turned out to be as great as we had hoped and that really did improve our lives significantly or consistently. Today we are going to see how God used the church at Philippi to give to Paul in ways that blessed him deeply and empowered him to continue advocating for the gospel. By looking at the relationship between Paul and the Philippian church, we will see that God provides for those who trust Him and empowers them to give to others.



CENTRAL **truth**

God provides for those who trust Him and empowers them to give to others.



EXPLORE

scripture

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-14

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low,

and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **14** Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

PHILIPPIANS 4:15-18

15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. **16** Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. **17** Not that I seek the gift,

but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. **18** I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19-20

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in

Christ Jesus. **20** To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE PHILIPPIANS 4:19

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13

DWELL

Most of us will go through times in life where we don't have all the resources, money, or belongings that we'd like—or even need—to live life comfortably. For some, these seasons will be short, but for many people, this is a life-long struggle. It's natural to feel discouraged by times of hunger or need, and it's certainly not bad to want to not be hungry or have needs. But Paul gives us his secret for being content no matter his situation: rather than rely on positive circumstances to bring him joy, he relied on the joy that comes from the Lord.



Why did Paul say that his comments were not made “out of need” (v. 11)?



What would it look like for you to find joy in Jesus instead of your circumstances?

MEMORIZE

Write Philippians 4:19 on a sticky note and place it somewhere you'll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror, a notebook, or inside your locker. Read it to yourself each time you see it.

PRAY

Thank God that no matter what's going on in our lives, He is a never-changing and reliable source of joy for us.

day 2

PHILIPPIANS 4:14-19

DWELL

Paul's relationship with the church in Philippi was special. They had provided financially for him on multiple occasions—but for Paul, their partnership was about more than just money. The Philippians partnered with Paul in his hardships, and they provided for him because they understood the significance of his work in the gospel. This partnership was one of Christian fellowship and love. Paul rejoiced because of what this generosity said about the Philippians, not because of the gifts themselves.

← What is the sacrifice or offering that Paul is talking about in verse 18? Why does he use these words to describe it?

↔ How could you partner another believer beyond simply giving money? How can we support one another in the gospel?

MEMORIZE

Take a slip of paper or index card and draw or write Philippians 4:19 using markers or colored pencils. Use it as a bookmark in one of your text books or notebooks this week.

PRAY

Ask God to bring to mind someone who could use your support, such as a missionary, or someone in your church. Pray about how you could partner with them.

day 3

PHILIPPIANS 4:20-23

DWELL

In the closing sentences of his letter, Paul reminded his readers of the ultimate purpose for all of his work and for all of their support and partnership: to bring glory to God now and forever. Paul also used the opportunity to pass on some greetings to the Philippians from other groups of people who were with him. In today's always-connected world, thanks to the internet, we might not think about how staying in touch with Christians who were far away and out-of-sight wasn't as always easy as simply hitting "like" or commenting on a social media post. Letters like this one were an opportunity for far-off believers to encourage one another and remind each other of the bond they shared in Christ.

← What does it mean to bring God glory?

→ What are some ways you can send greetings or encouragement to other Christians who live far away?

MEMORIZE

Write each word from Philippians 4:19 on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

PRAY

Thank God that through Christ, we are connected to all other believers around the world, regardless of distance, language, or circumstance. Say a prayer for believers in another city or country than you.

day 4

2 CORINTHIANS 11:7-13

DWELL

Paul brought up the Philippian church in this letter to the church in Corinth (v. 9). Some of Paul's opponents in Corinth seem to have thought less of Paul because he preached free of charge, unlike many other preachers of the time. He described his way of operating—"committing sin" or "robbing other churches"—as an exaggeration. In fact, his refusal to take payment from the Corinthians, and instead relying on earning his own income or being assisted through gifts from other churches such as the one at Philippi, was a display of humility, not arrogance or sinfulness.

↓ According to Paul, why didn't he ask for payment from the Corinthians?

→ What are some attitudes or things you do as a Christian that don't seem to make sense from an outside perspective?

MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Philippians 4:19 on the web, in a podcast, or on a Bible app. Listen to it every day this week.

PRAY

Pray that God would give you courage to make bold, counter-cultural decisions as a follower of Christ.

day 5

MARK 12:41-44

DWELL

Jesus observed how people were giving freewill offerings at the temple treasury, and He noticed that while rich people were giving large gifts, one widow in particular gave a small donation of just two coins. Even though the rich donors were able to give much larger sums, Jesus told His disciples that the widow's gift was worth more, because she gave from an attitude of sacrifice—maybe even giving what little she had left to live on. Jesus isn't implying that all of us need to give away everything. His point was that when we give, it should be out of an attitude of trust in God's provision.

↓ How were the gifts of the rich people different than the gift of the widow?

↪ How could you give of your time, money, or talents in a way that is sacrificial?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Philippians 4:19 from memory with a friend or family member. Ask them to follow along as you recite, and prompt you with words from the verse if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Thank God for the things He has blessed you with, and ask Him how you could use those resources, gifts, and talents to bless others.