

8> When I hang around the \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, join in **following my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 4:9 The things you have **learned** and **received** and **heard** and **seen in me, practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

9> When I realize that circumstances and contentment \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:11-12 Not that I speak from want, **for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am**. 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.

You can't control the length of your life  
But you can control its width and depth

You can't control the contour of your face  
But you can control its expression

You can't control the weather  
But you can control the atmosphere of your mind

Why worry about things you can't control when you can keep yourself busy controlling the things that depend on you.

10> When I rely on the \_\_\_\_\_  
in my life - Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

#### Prayer Requests for this week...

**For Ralph's ministry next Sunday morning at Strasbourg, SK. Christian and Missionary Alliance Church**

**For Ralph's ministry in Ohio at month-end in Butler and his role at the Apostolic Roundtable in Toledo**

**For Ralph's apostolic team of apostles and prophets in training working with him in Russia November 14 to December 1**

**For a larger financial base of support**



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#### Ralph Howe Ministries

"Loving God, Equipping People, Mentoring Leaders, Reaching Nations"

#### NEW RESOURCES THIS WEEK ON THE WEB

##### These are free downloads available for you on-line

Sunday teachings are posted on-line on Mondays ... in audio (soon video) and full printer text. The printout is also posted. Yours free—to use to bless others

Each day Ralph posts a new blog (web log or on-line journal) with comments and insights into church, life and the world... you can sign up and receive them directly to your inbox

Daily new articles are posted in line with the Sunday teaching ... other material to consider regarding the topic being preached from the pulpit

Mission feedback and reports are posted regularly. While overseas an extra daily blog is posted at noon each day

Testimonies and pictures are posted regularly

#### CONTENT OR DISCONTENT WHICH TENT DO YOU LIVE IN?

[Being Different to Make a Difference - Part Three]

Part One—Living with excessive joy  
Part Two—Being extremely thankful  
Today—being seriously content  
When we say ...

"Some day..."

"If only..."

"If I could..."

"If only I were..."

Then we are discontent with life as we live it!

#### WHAT CONTENTMENT IS NOT:

- 1> It is not \_\_\_\_\_ my emotions
- 2> It is not \_\_\_\_\_ my present situation
- 3> It is not \_\_\_\_\_ more possessions

#### WHAT CONTENTMENT IS:

**Webster's Dictionary:** "Happy enough with what one has or is; not desiring something more or different; satisfied."

**Paul the apostle to the people at Philippi:** "A confidence that I measure up to any situation I am facing because of the resources of strength that God has made available to me."

#### The secret of contentment:

**Attitude** ⇨ \_\_\_\_\_ about the situation

**+ Action** ⇨ \_\_\_\_\_ about the situation

**= Adequacy** ⇨ \_\_\_\_\_ about the situation

**ATTITUDE** ⇨ Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

**ACTION** ⇨ Philippians 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**ADEQUACY** ⇨ Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:8-13 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. 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. Not that I speak from want, for **I have learned to be content** in whatever circumstances I am. 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 can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

#### THE DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTMENT:

1> Contentment is a \_\_\_\_\_

Verses 11-12 Not that I speak from want, for **I have learned to be content** in whatever circumstances I am. 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.

2> Contentment is a quality that does \_\_\_\_\_ your situation or your circumstances

It is a state of mind that we \_\_\_\_\_ to possess and live with

3> Contentment is a character quality that draws \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from God

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENTMENT...

I develop contentment when I...

1> Sense that someone \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for me

Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of **your participation in the gospel** from the first day until now.

Philippians 4:14-15 Nevertheless, **you have done well to share with me in my affliction.** 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;

- Knowing God's love
- Having an assurance of God's love

2> Know that I am \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ progress

Philippians 1:6 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.

Philippians 2:13 for **it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 3:12-14 **Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect**, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, **I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet**; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

***I never want to be, what I want to be,  
Because there's always something out there yet for me.***

***I get a kick out of living in the here and now,  
But I never want to feel I know the best way how.  
There's always one hill higher, with a better view,  
Something waiting to be learned that I never knew.  
Till my days are over, never fully fill my cup,  
Let me go on growing – up.***

**3> View my circumstances in \_\_\_\_\_**

Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Philippians 1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brethren, that **my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel**, so that **my imprisonment in the cause of Christ** has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord **because of my**

**imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God** without fear.

4> When I desire a \_\_\_\_\_ more than anything else

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 3:7-11 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, **I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ** Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so **that I may gain Christ**, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

5> When I live a \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 2:3-5 **Do nothing from selfishness** or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **do not merely look out for your own personal interests**, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus

6> When I spend time in \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:6-7 **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

7> When I \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **let your mind dwell on these things.**