

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Philippians 4:10-23 Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

What is the “secret” Paul has learned in vs 12?

Think through Paul’s life and name times he has known “plenty” and “need”

How does his story influence how we hear what he is saying?

How is he able to remain content despite his circumstances?

Paul says he is able to “do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Looking carefully at the context of the passage, what does he mean?

How do people take this verse out of context?

Why is it important not to misuse this verse to say something Paul doesn’t actually say?

Paul is rejoicing because of the large financial gift the Philippians have sent him.

Do you think he is excited merely about the money? Why/why not?

How is their financial gift a partnership with Paul?

How is it sharing in his troubles? (vs14)

Paul describes their financial gift as a fragrant offering to God?

How is the gift an offering *to God* if it is given to Paul?

When you give financially, do you tend to think of yourself as giving to the church (or missionary, etc.), or, do you tend to think of yourself as giving a gift directly to God?

What’s the difference? How does it affect our giving?

Paul says that God will credit the Philippians’ account and meet their needs.

Have you experienced this in your own life? How? When?

How is this different than a “prosperity gospel” theology?

Paul reminds the Philippians of their past giving over the years. Take a moment to reflect and think how you have seen God work through your past financial gifts. How has He multiplied what you offered? Take time to praise him for this.

Paul is both expressing gratitude and spurring the church on to continued generosity. If you do not yet give generously to the Church and the mission of God how can you take a first step toward doing so?

If you already give, how might the Spirit be inviting you to take yet another step of generosity?

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