

Living Content

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...
Philippians 4:12*

It is a tragedy to not come to know Jesus personally and be filled with His Spirit. But I find it also tragic to be born from above and live life on this earth without hope. Hope is not something that every Christian has developed. The Apostle Paul had a very hard life. He was constantly on the move for the Lord and found himself in many dangerous situations. You should read 2 Corinthians 11: 21-33 where Paul talks about all he has gone through for Jesus. But Paul was not a born again miserable believer. He was anything but! He was a man who possessed great joy because he loved people and trusted in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 2:19). I love this verse; "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

Be joyful in hope. Hope is believing and trusting that what lies ahead of you is going to be fruitful, productive and good because the Lord works in all things for the good of those who are called according to His purposes. If you will live for Him today, He will take care of tomorrow.

Recently Mary Lou and I were having a discussion. We were talking about desperation and we felt that there is something that we need to be careful of. There are times in our lives when we cry out for more. We want to see more evidence of the Lord in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones.

There is a groan in our spirit to draw closer to Jesus and to know Him more. This is good, but we have also seen desperation turn to despair. Despair because things are not working out quite as we had expected or because things are not happening fast enough. Despair leads to discontent. A discontented spirit is not what I believe the Lord had in mind when He said; "Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

David said: "He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He put a new song in my heart..." (Psalm 40:1-3). I do believe it is time to sing the new song. A song of praise. A song of deliverance. A song of joy and hope. Our God is with us and he is mighty to save. In the passage above where Paul talks about the secret of contentment he goes on to share with us just what that secret is: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:12). And that is the secret to joy, peace and contentment. We all can live with joy when we KNOW that God our Father is with us and that He put the treasure of His Kingdom in us so that we can do anything we put our heart and soul into. So, Lord, lift us out of the pit today Lord and give us an attitude of hope in exchange for the spirit of despair. Help us to remember that we were designed to look like, act like and function like our Creator. Amen!