

# “Practicing Gratitude”

Philippians 4:11-13 NLT

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

“**Envy** is resenting God’s goodness in someone else’s life, while ignoring His goodness in mine.”

Psalms 103:1-5 NIV 1984

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things.

The **MORE** I think deserve, the **LESS** I will be grateful for.

“Radical gratitude is powerful, provocative, life-changing. It’s like a pair of glasses that get progressively sharper: the more we thank, the more we see to be thankful for. Gratitude is the lens that reveals God’s incredible grace at work. It is the key to tangible, everyday joy.” Ellen Vaughn

Philippians 4:11-12 NLT

... I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

You learn **contentment** by practicing gratitude.

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## **GENEROSITY**

Selflessness leads to **happiness**.

“The absolute best way to fill yourself up is to pour **yourself** out.”

Acts 20:35 NIV

... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

You are never more like God than when you generously **give** yourself away.

Luke 12:15 TLB

Beware! Don't always be wishing for what you don't have. For real life and real living are not related to how rich we are."

Matthew 6:21 NLT

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Give **willingly**.

Giving is not an obligated "**have to**" ... it's a joy-filled "**get to**"... it flows from a heart that simply wants to say, "**thanks**"...

**Give** joyfully, God loves a **cheerful** giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NLT

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. <sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Cheerful = Hilarios = **Hilarious**

2 Corinthians 8:2,4 NLT

They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

Give **humbly**.

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Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ's Church of Marion County

March 11, 2018

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Matthew 6:1-4 NLT

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Give **consistently**.

Proverbs 3:9 TLB

Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income..

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