

You Have Enough

'But Esau said, "I have **enough**, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me. Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have **enough**." So he urged him, and he took it'
(Gen.33:9-11)

- ✓ **Jacob and Esau both said, “I have enough.” But there was a difference**
- ✓ **Esau – *rab*, i.e. an abundance, very much, excess**
- ✓ **Jacob – *kol*, all, to be complete, not lacking**
- ✓ **Jacob acknowledged God’s gracious provision, and his dependence upon Him; Esau didn’t**
- ✓ **Jesus said that life does not consist in the abundance of *things* we possess. It consists in the abundant *life* we have. Jacob had the latter because he had met God as El Shaddai and knew that he was sufficient for all things**
- ✓ **One kind of abundance is based what we have; the other is based on Who we have, Rom.8:32**

- ✓ **As those who are in Christ, we can always say, 'I have enough', 'I have a sufficiency for all things', regardless of our circumstances**
- ✓ **This was Paul's testimony**

'I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus' (Phil.4:10-19)

✓ Paul was in prison and received a gift from the Philippian church

✓ He wanted to express his gratitude to them but takes 10 verses to do so. There is an awkwardness about it

✓ He doesn't want to sound ungrateful but at the same time he wants them to know that His trust is in God who will always make him sufficient

✓ The result is that it sounds like 'thankless thanks'

✓ He says, *'I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content'*. What does that mean?

✓It doesn't mean that we should be content to remain in need without trying to improve our situation. Both Jesus and Paul prayed for deliverance from their circumstances

✓The word 'content' is translated from the Greek word *autarkes*, an inner sufficiency. It was originally used by the Stoics, who taught that suppression of feelings was the key to freedom

✓Paul elevated this word by giving it a Christian meaning. Christians have been given resources to stand in the midst of every situation, 'Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God' (2 Cor.3:5)

For example:

- ✓ **Ministry opportunities**
- ✓ **Difficult relationships, confrontations**
- ✓ **Physically demanding situations**
- ✓ **An ongoing negative environment**
- ✓ **Stepping outside of our comfort zone**
- ✓ **Having to learn new technology, software, etc**

- ✓ **We lose control if we make our lives dependent upon outward circumstances or people, instead of trusting in the indwelling Holy Spirit**
- ✓ **We are not like thermometers, but thermostats**
- ✓ **The fruit of the Spirit is self-control. No one, but you determines whether you will be happy or not**
- ✓ **If we can improve our situation, then let's do so. If not, 'we have enough'**
- ✓ **This was Paul's testimony. *'I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound'***

✓ Paul 'learned' how to be *abased* (to be brought low) without feeling hurt, angry, resentful, anxious or inferior. He was content when the Philippians could not help him and other churches wouldn't (see 4:15; Acts 16:25; Hab.3:17-18). He trusted in God

✓ He also 'learned' how to *abound* (to be in excess, to have over and above). He knew how to handle prosperity without putting his confidence in these things and becoming independent of God

✓ The Christian experiences both the ideal and the real. E.g. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego

'And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again...'

'Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth'

(Heb.11:32-38)

- ✓ **Paul 'learned' to be content**
- ✓ **He had come into the place where he could say, 'Circumstances will never control me again'**
- ✓ **How did he learn this?**
- ✓ **1) By experience (2 Cor.12:1-10). Jesus also learned by experience, *'...in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered'* (Heb.5:7-9)**

- ✓ **2) By the logical application of spiritual truths:**
- ✓ **a) Some circumstances are outside of my control**
- ✓ **b) God is in control of my life and He loves me**
- ✓ **c) He will never allow me to be in a situation without giving me the resources to deal with it, (remember, he was in prison when he wrote this!)**

- ✓ **He said, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', i.e. 'I am more than equal to any need that arises, through Christ who infuses power within me'**
- ✓ **He was not saying, 'Lord give me strength'. But, 'Lord, You are My strength'. 'I have enough'**

- ✓ ***'And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus' (Phil.4:19)***
- ✓ **Some translations say, *'God will provide...'*. The word provide is made up of two Latin words: pro = before; video = to see. God sees beforehand what we will need and makes provision for each situation**
- ✓ **Joseph could say to his brothers, *'God sent me here before you to preserve life'*. God was also aware of Paul's need and brought it to the attention of the Philippians, who ministered to him**
- ✓ **Contentment comes from knowing our God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ. Then we can say, *'I have enough'***