

# texts from the cell



## the secret to contentment

*philippians 4:10-20*

1) what does paul say is his secret to contentment?

- "i have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. i know what it is to be in need, and i know what it is to have plenty. i have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. i can do everything through \_\_\_\_\_ who gives me strength?

~ philippians 4:11-13

2) what was the giving pattern of the church at philippi?

- "out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich \_\_\_\_\_. for i testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability, entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with \_\_\_\_\_ for the privilege of sharing in this service to the needy saints of jerusalem."

~ 2 corinthians 8:2-4

3) what was paul's pattern for calling the church to give financially?

- everywhere paul planted churches he encouraged them to give – sometimes to support his missionary endeavors, but always to support the needs of the \_\_\_\_\_.

→ "peter, james, and john agreed that we should go to the gentiles, and they to the jews. all they asked was that we should continue to remember the \_\_\_\_\_, the very thing i was eager to do?

~ galatians 2:9-10

## three things to consider in preparation for the "be the church" sunday:

- 1) BEGIN BRINGING the food and hygiene items listed in your worship folder insert to the church – between now and oct 3.
- 2) BEGIN PREPARING your heart over the next couple of weeks to really listen for god's voice during this upcoming teaching series.
- 3) BEGIN PRAYING ABOUT how god might have you participate in the "be the church" sunday.

## practical next steps – for connecting the word to our lives:

- 1) take 20 minutes this week and make a 'gratitude list' – intentionally reflecting on all of the ways (spiritually, emotionally, and physically) that god has provided for you.
- 2) fast (give up) one thing this next week (or over the next few weeks) – as a way of practicing self-control and contentment.
- 3) memorize philippians 4:13 – and then recite it to yourself whenever you find yourself in circumstances you don't like.
- 4) commit yourself to begin tithing (10% of your income) – as a symbolic declaration that god is in charge of the other 90% of your income, too.
- 5) if you're already tithing (and you still have margin) – then prayerfully take your giving % to a new level – trusting that god will supply all your needs as you give to those things that are close to his heart.
- 6) create a budget for discretionary/comfort spending in order to combat the lie that your joy is dependent on what you can obtain with your money.
- 7) commit yourself to being open to whatever god wants to reveal to you during the upcoming series, including where he would have you take part in "be the church."