

## THE BIG IDEA: God isn't against us having stuff; He's against stuff having us.

### The Take-Off

We're halfway through!! Give yourself a huge pat on the back and high five some people around you!

Like I said from the beginning, talking about possessions and money isn't easy, but it's something that God did a lot! Remember how many times it's referenced in the Bible? Over 2300 times.

We can't be people of the Book and not talk about something that the Book talks about that much!

Even though we've said from the beginning that this series is about more than money, we have spent the first 2 weeks talking about how God wants us to GIVE our resources, and since the national average is giving 2.5% of our income, that means most of us have probably felt the sting of failure over the last 2 weeks.

But this week, we're going to start a little shift away from how God wants us to GIVE our resources so that we can learn how He wants us to LIVE with our resources.

We're going to be in Philippians 4 this morning, so go ahead and get there.

While you're getting there, let me ask you a question: what do you think of when you hear the word "secrets?"

Some of you got nervous that I'm gonna go full Pentecostal on you and start pointing you out and revealing yours!

Others of you got excited about getting in some secret in crowd!

I ask this because Paul is going to talk about a secret in the fourth chapter of Philippians, and it's a good secret.

It isn't the kind you could be blackmailed for - it's the kind that can help us understand a real key toward how to live with the resources that God's given each of us.

That's important, too, because we live in the land of stuff, don't we?

Storage is a multi billion dollar industry and yard sale season is right around the corner - when we sell our stuff and buy someone else's!

If we're not careful, it can feel overwhelming.

So how do we live with stuff and still honor the generous heart of the Father?

Well, that's the secret that we're gonna learn in **Philippians 4:10-13 (NIV)**, but before we read it, let me give you the Big Idea to keep in mind as we talk through these 4 powerful verses: **God isn't against us having stuff; He's against stuff having us.**

That's why the title this morning is "Stop living possessed"

Paul's going to teach us - under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - about the secret of contentment and the source of contentment.

Let's read and then we'll jump in.

### 1. The secret of contentment

- Paul mentioned being content twice in these 4 verses, so let's talk about **the secret of contentment**
- 2 different Greek words are used
  - The first means to be independent of external circumstances
  - The second means to be initiated into the mystery
  - Both are only used once - here - in the NT
- What is Paul saying? That we'll learn something we won't understand by experiencing something we don't understand
- Contentment isn't just a theory - it is something to be used
- The challenge, of course, is that the only way to know we have it is to be in situations where we need it
- We can SAY we're content in any circumstance, but the only way to be initiated into the secret is to SEE if we're content in any circumstance
- Let me give you a real life example
- [Going full time and not getting support]
- Do you know what I really learned? I learned Who my true source is.

### 2. The source of contentment

- v. 13 / our contentment comes from the Father - HE will give me the strength I need for ANY circumstance
- v. 19 / why didn't Paul worry when he had little? God supplies ALL OUR NEEDS from ALL HIS RICHES
- Here's what Paul was saying in v. 13 - I can do all things through Christ because I have all things in Christ!

- d. Paul understood the relation of confession and possession
- e. "I can do all things through Christ" is the confession
- f. "I have all things in Christ" is the possession
- g. Contentment comes from trusting that both of those are true
- h. Confession without possession is a WISH
- i. Possession without confession is a WASTE
- j. But confession with possession becomes a WELL that HE supplies!! (John 4:14 NIV)
- k. When that happens, we can draw from what's in us no matter what's happening around us
- l. God's plan is that we become a vessel - unclogged - through which resources can freely flow
- m. [Our bathtub]

## The Landing

Let me give you a couple of takeaways:

Our passions fuel our possessions

- They were looking to give
- In the OT, giving can seem like an obligation. In the NT, giving seems more like an opportunity.

To give freely, we've got to live freely

- Our possessions will always try to possess us
- The key to being free from our possessions is in trusting God to supply ALL our needs
- That allows us to live with an open hand

In all fairness, this can be a hard lesson to learn. Watch!

[VIDEO - 4 million dollar gift]

Let's pray.