

# SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

**TOOLBOX**

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

What would it take to make you completely content?		
	NOW	FUTURE
Relationships		
Achievements		
Possessions		
Looks		
Popularity		

**DISCUSS**

Billionaire industrialist John D. Rockefeller was once asked, "How much does it take to satisfy a man?" With rare wisdom he answered, "A little bit more than he has."

**Why is it that people always need more to be satisfied?**



**KELLY'S STORY**

Kelly became a Christian in high school. When she came to college, she wanted to get involved in a Christian organization. She met some people with Campus Crusade and started going to a Bible study. She likes all the activities that Crusade has to offer and goes to almost everything. But inside, she feels like she's on a roller coaster spiritually and that something just isn't right. She admits she's usually too busy between school, working out, and activities to have much time to spend alone with God, but she goes to Crusade events and activities hoping they will do the trick.

**What's missing?**



"Thou hast created us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."  
-St. Augustine



## PSALMIST

### Psalm 73:21-28

When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.



## CONTEXT

This Psalm was written by Asaph, a musician in the time of King David. He was appointed minister of music in the Temple (1 Chronicles 15:19; 16:5) and his descendants were also official musicians. Asaph struggled with the perplexing issue of the prosperity of the wicked, and the apparent lack of reward for the righteous (73:1-14).

How would you describe the Psalmist's situation? What would you say he recognized as the solution to his need?



## CONTEXT

Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians from a prison in Rome, where he was imprisoned for being an instigator of new beliefs.

First, he encourages them to stand fast against the opposition from pagans and Judaizers. Second, he encourages them to rejoice and not be anxious in trials (3:1; 4:4,6,7) using himself as an example because he was able to rejoice in imprisonment (1:18). Third, he exhorts them to walk together in unity (1:27-2:11), and finally, Paul thanks them for their financial gift (4:10-18).



## PAUL

### Philippians 4:11-13

I am not saying this because I am in need, for 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 him who gives me strength.

What was Paul's situation? What would you say he recognized as the solution to his need?

Paul talks about the secret of being content in all kinds of circumstances. How would you define "the secret" according to Paul? Why do you think Paul calls it a secret? What does that imply?

*There is no pit so deep that God is not deeper still.*

—Corrie Ten Boom (Nazi concentration camp survivor)

The Secret:



**"I am content . . .**

How does this spiritual truth affect my . . .

**Relationships?**

**Popularity?**

**Achievements?**

**Looks?**

**Possessions?**

Describe what a person looks like or acts like who pretends to be content.

What are the consequences of faking contentment?

## The Secret:

### "I am content . . .

I am content when I recognize that God, and what He chooses to provide at this moment, is all I need.



Moving this principle from my head to my heart.



### FLASHBACK

Think of a past, difficult situation in which you lacked contentment. What would have been different if you had acknowledged ...

1. Who God is, and
2. That His provision was sufficient?



### APPLY

A current situation:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How can I apply the "secret" to each situation?



### LORI'S STORY

In high school, I looked like I had it all together. I made good grades, was very involved in school and social activities, had plenty of friends, and a steady boyfriend. But then I went to college and everything changed. I was stripped of my security and felt like just another face in the crowd. So .... back to the old drawing board I went, searching for complete satisfaction in achievements and people. One day, C.J., a woman on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ, explained the gospel to me. At that point, I realized that though I'd been to church and heard about God, I'd never experienced a personal relationship with Him. C.J. helped me see that I could never find lasting happiness in my achievements, or in the approval of others. Those could never meet my deepest needs. I realized through this experience that only God could supply me with genuine contentment and peace.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.