

The Secret to Contentment

Philippians 4:10-13

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So we're just excited and thankful on this week leading to Thanksgiving. If you join me now in opening God's Word, we're in Philippians chapter four, and I know you just sat down, but if you wouldn't mind standing again. Our King is about to speak, and we want to give him our full attention. Philippians 4:10-13.

This is God's word.

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I'm speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low and I know how to abound in any and every circumstance. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

You may be seated.

I've learned the secret of being content in any and every circumstance. How many of you feel comfortable about saying those words out loud about yourself today? I tell you, I'm a work in progress, especially in this area of contentment. I've got a lot farther to go than I would like to admit. This was illustrated pretty early in my life, when I was about ten years old.

Do we have any ten year olds here this morning? All right. I'm sure some of you ten year olds are more mature than I was as a ten year old. But I'll tell you this story and you can tell me later if you do better than I did when I was ten years old.

Our family took a road trip from West Virginia all the way up to Alaska, and we went actually all the way up into the Arctic Circle. And it was an amazing trip. I'm amazed that my parents did it at a young age that's younger than I am now, and I have so many good memories of the trip. But there's one piece of the trip that's still embarrassing to me to this day, and that's the part that I'm going to share with you.

We were somewhere around Fairbanks, Alaska, and I noticed that all the boys my age were wearing these rubber boots that came up close to the knee, and they were totally waterproof so that they could splash around in streams and mud puddles, and their socks didn't get wet. I just thought that was the coolest thing in the world. And I knew that what I needed more than anything else in the world was a pair of those boots.

So I went to my parents and I said, can I please get some of those boots? Can I please get some of those boots? And eventually they took me to a sporting goods store, and I got a pair of these

boots. Now, the thing that made me so excited about these boots is that they gave me power over nature.

This is not unique to me, and it's particularly something that we men like power over nature. I can stand in the water up to my shins and my socks stay dry. That's power. It's the same kind of power that attracts us to guns and to big trucks. I mean, we can go anywhere we want. Nature can't stop us.

It's power. So as a ten year old, I had this desire. I wanted this power. So I got these boots and I felt good. We came back from the store, went down to the river, and began to splash around and enjoy this newfound ability. I had to wade into water up to my shins and stay dry. It felt really good.

I was content, and as I was down there by the river, I saw a man standing out in the water. In water, up to here. And my heart burned. I found out that what he was wearing was something called chest waders, and I saw the power in those chest waders, and I wanted it for myself. I immediately ran back to my parents and I said, I need chest waders.

They couldn't believe their ears. They thought I was joking because we hadn't been home from the store for 20 minutes and I was all ready. Now, knowing the thing I need more than anything else in the world is these chest waders. And they said, we're not getting you chest waders, we just got your boots. And I know, but I need chest waders.

I could walk out up to my chest and stay dry. It would be amazing. I said, we're not getting you chest waders. And it was clear to me that they were serious. They were not going to give me chest waders. And so what does a boy do when he knows that the one thing standing between him and happiness is a set of chest waders, that his parents said he is never going to get.

Well, I'll tell you what this boy did. I sat down, I took off my boots. I threw him down on the ground because there's they're dumb and I don't want him any way. And I'm never going to be happy. And it's all your fault. It was not my finest moment. And sadly, I've had some adult versions of this same situation. But... What was revealed in my heart in that moment of tantrum is something that's actually not unique to me. This is something that all of us have to deal with. It's a question of contentment. And what I didn't know then, and I'm still learning now, is that.

It doesn't matter what we get. It doesn't matter what we have. It doesn't matter what our position is. It doesn't matter where we are or what we're doing. Contentment doesn't come through any of that. Where does it come from? Well, that's what the Apostle Paul wants us to understand in this passage. It doesn't come from our stuff. In fact, Socrates many years ago said it this way.

He said, he who is not contented with what he has would not be contented with what he would like to have. Now my parents understood this, and they didn't get me the chest waders, and mercifully they didn't take away my boots either. But how do we get contentment if it's not found in a position? It's not found in a possession; it's not found in a place.

How do we get it? There are many of us here this morning. Many of us are Christians. We are already following Jesus. Some of us are here, not yet following Jesus. And we're particularly glad you're here as well. But whatever our situation with regard to faith is, most, if not all of us want to be content. We want to be satisfied with who we are and where we are and what we're doing and what we have.

We want to be satisfied.

The problem is, we just don't want to be content with where we are right now and with what we have right now, and with where we are right now. We want to be content because we've gotten everything. Now we want. But that's not how contentment works. Contentment is not a future thing that you get after you get everything that you want.

Contentment is something that can only be learned in the here, in the now, in this present situation, in these present circumstances. And the good news is you can learn it. You can have it, no matter your circumstances, no matter your situation, you can actually go forth from this place today. Content.

If you want contentment. Then you need to know the secret. You need to get an education and you need to make a decision. If you want contentment, you need to know the secret. You need to get an education, and you need to make a decision. First of all, you need to know the secret. Everyone loves to know a secret.

And there is a secret with regard to contentment. And the Apostle Paul lays it out for us in this passage. Most of us go through life even if we know better. Most of us go through life thinking, believing that the secret to being content is getting the chest waders. It's getting the new spouse or that guy or girl you have your eye on.

It's getting appointment to a new board, or achieving a new goal, or climbing to the top of whatever ladder it is that you are climbing. But none of those things are the secret to contentment. You may have heard of the country group Dan and Shay, and they put in 21st century language. What Socrates said many years ago. They said, you're never going to fill an empty cup if what you got still not enough.

The thing about happiness, I've found, is it don't live in bigger houses. It doesn't. So what's the secret? Well, I'm going to share it with you now. Then we're going to spend the rest of our time working it out and really seeking to go deep into this. Here's the secret to contentment. It's Jesus, it's Jesus. He's the secret to contentment.

Now, some of you might be sitting out there saying, that's a that's a that's a cheap shot, of course is Jesus answered, everything is Jesus. That's the right Sunday School answer. But I'll tell you this he actually is the answer. He is the secret to contentment. And I'm going to show you how through this passage, you know, it's by faith that we are united to Jesus Christ.

It's by faith that Jesus dwells in us and that we dwell in him. It's by faith that we are able in Christ to be content in any and every circumstance. So let's break it down, as Paul does here in verse 13. He says, I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Look at the first piece of that.

I can do all things more precisely, I am mighty, I am strong, I have power, ability for all things. That's a bold statement, but it's a true statement that the Christian can make. I have power, ability, strength.

And he has the power, the ability, the strength. To face all the conditions of life, whether it's being humbled or being exalted, whether it's being rich or poor, whether it's having plenty of food or not having enough, he's strong enough to face them all down, and to prevail over all of the various vicissitudes of life. And you have that same power, Christian.

You have that same power. You have the power to face everything that life throws at you, including whatever life is throwing at you today in this moment, this morning before you came here. You have power to face this, to stay in this marriage that's draining the life out of you, the power to suffer the indignities of your unemployment or your underemployment without getting bitter.

You have the power to. To adjust to and thrive in this new life that you didn't choose for yourself, but find yourself living. You have the power to serve with love even when you don't like the form your service is taking. You are strong for all these things. You have power for this. You have ability.

At least if you know the secret. Now wait a second. You may say, what do you mean I'm strong? What's all this stuff about? I'm strong. I'm not strong, I'm weak. He's strong. But you're right. There is an important qualification the apostle Paul makes in this passage. The second piece of what he says is through him who strengthens me.

To put it more precisely, I am strong in him who is empowering me. The secret of Paul's independence of his strength is his dependence upon another. He had a source of power that was not his, but which lived in him. Now we have to understand this. Paul doesn't ever deny his weakness. In fact, he makes a great deal of it, particularly in the second letter to the Corinthians.

But Paul also never lets his weakness become an excuse for inactivity, for passivity, or for sin. Never. He never says, I can't when I find myself in a tough spot, I'm sometimes tempted to confess, well, the Bible tells me I'm weak and I feel like I'm weak, and in fact, I know I'm weak. Therefore I don't really have a choice in this situation except to grumble and to complain and to throw a fit, or to give in to this particular sin or that.

But that's not how Paul talks about weakness. Paul says he boasts in his weakness, but not because it gives him a license to sin or because it's an excuse for sinning. Paul talks about his weakness because that's the place where he sees the power of Christ at work. Look, second

Corinthians 12 nine. He says, therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

His weaknesses are the place where the greatest power is made manifest. Now what is this power that's at work within you that can empower you to live the Christian life, no matter your circumstances? Well, he speaks of it earlier. If you flip over a page in Philippians chapter three, verse ten, where he says that he wants to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, the same power that conquered the grave lives in you Christian, and that power is a person. Do you know him? Do you know this? If you don't know the power and there are plenty who haven't. And that's why the Apostle Paul prays in Ephesians chapter one, what I pray for you now, even in this moment, Ephesians 1:18 to 20, that having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us, who believe according to the working of his great might, that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and seated him at the right hand in the heavenly places.

Do you know this power that lives in you? This is not a promise for the future. This is right here and now. Power for you. In you. Yes, you are a jar of clay, but you are a jar that carries the Lord of glory. Have you lost perspective on the power of God at work within you? Have you allowed your circumstances and your sins to become bigger than your God?

Let me ask you, where have you placed limits on God's power in your life? You know in your head that God is powerful?

But if you actually tapped into that power for you to break you free of your prison of sinful habits and attitudes, if the same power that conquered the grave, of the same power that is renewing all of creation lives in you. Then it's time to wake up and to stop living weak, wimpy, whiny ways that deny the power of the living God at work within you.

You are strong to face whatever lies before you because of the one who lives in you and is empowering you moment by moment. Yes, even in your weakness, especially in your weakness. Especially in the place where you're ready to quit or already have quit, that's where his power is made manifest. That's where it's seen. And not because you finally got everything you ever wanted, but because you have him.

We have to show that though the world that the power that's at work within us, it's not just words, it's not just teaching. It is made manifest through our transformed lives. That's how we make a difference. This is the secret to contentment. Knowing in any and every circumstance that you are strong, because he who is all powerful is at work within you to make you strong, to face anything that comes with a heart that is content.

Have you learned the secret to being content? If not, then the second thing we see in this passage is you need to get an education. You need to get an education. When we think about education, we typically think about learning from books, which is an important piece of

education. But there's another piece of education, and that is the learning, which comes from experience.

And Paul is talking about both of these kinds of learning. Most of us are much farther along in our learning that comes from books than we are in our learning. That comes from experience. But Paul is talking about the learning that he's lived, and that's when we know we've truly learned something because we're living it. Look what he says in verse 11.

I have learned in whatever situation I am, to be content. That's not book learning. That's the learning that comes from living. It. Continuing in verse 12, I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound in any and every circumstance. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. He actually uses a word that literally means I have been initiated, initiated into this knowledge, this experience.

Now, you and I both probably prefer learning from books, principles and facts rather than learning lessons, especially hard ones. Through experience. But we have to learn it in experience or else we don't know it. I'll use myself as an example. I've been studying this whole principles of contentment. I knew I was going to be talking to you about this last week, when our family traveled up to Tallahassee, Florida, from Naples, Tallahassee being much closer here actually, than it is to where we live in Florida.

But we were going up there for the state cross-country meet that a couple of our kids were running in, and we checked into our hotel, and the lady at the desk was very kind, and she gave us our room keys. We went back to our room. We opened the door, we stepped inside and we were immediately blasted with the most horrific smell I've smelled in a hotel room, which is next level already.

You know? And we immediately noticed it. And we said to each other, maybe it will get better in a minute. And we stood there for a minute, just kind of holding our luggage, and it became apparent this is not getting better. There is a fundamental problem with this room. There is not going to be resolved in a couple of minutes.

And so we went back to the front desk and took all our back, our luggage back there with us. And we said to the, to the young lady, we said, thank you for the room. It's got a real smell problem. We would like a different room. Could we have one, please? And she said, oh, no problem. Wait just a moment.

And she left the desk and she went into the back room and we thought that she was going back to talk to the manager about getting us a different room. It turned out she went to the back because there's a secret door to get back into the hallway, and she made her way down the hallway, and we saw her walking down to our room, and she was carrying a couple of spray bottles with her.

And so we went, and we stood outside the door of the room and waited for her to come out. And after several minutes she did, and she saw us and she said the problem is solved. And I said,

really? You were able to solve the problem that fast? And she said, yep. And I said, well, what exactly was the problem?

She said, well, it's the carpet. I thought, well, yes, that definitely is a problem. I don't think it's a problem that can be fixed with what you're holding in your hands, but we said we'll give it a try. And so we stepped back into the room and this time we were assaulted again, but this time with a very strong smell of chemicals with a faint whiff of whatever was there before.

And it was doubly terrible. And I was very frustrated. And we went back to the front desk and I said, this is like a chemical nightmare. It smells awful. It's not safe. We can't be in this room. We need a different room. And she said, well, I can't help you. We don't have any other rooms. And she wasn't lying.

And places sold out everywhere in Tallahassee that weekend. And so, I said, can I talk to your manager? She said, no, he's not here. But I saw a card on the desk with the manager's phone number, so I took the card. We went back to the room and I and I called the number and lo and behold, the voice on the other end was that same girl working at the front desk.

She said, is this is this the guy in room 108? Yes. This is the guy still not happy with this room. And so we decided we would go out and let the room settle. And, we took a walk to dinner. And as we were walking, I said to my wife, you know, I've been working on my sermon all the way in the car on the way up there, thinking about contentment the whole time. And as we're walking to the restaurant, I said to her, this might be one of those situations where God wants me to learn by experience what I know in principle that I can be content in any and every situation, including a smelly hotel room. And I realized, but I don't want to be. I don't want to be.

I can be content just as soon as they put me in a room that's decent and isn't terrible. And that's often how we experience contentment when we're in the situation where we most need to practice what we know intellectually, we're at least inclined to do it. And we say, I'll be happy to be content as soon as I get better circumstances, as soon as I get what I want, as soon as I'm in a better room.

But that's not how it works. The trying time you're in right now, the difficult situation you want to change is precisely the place where you are meant to learn by experience. The power of God at work in you that enables you to be content in any and every circumstance.

If you're going to learn contentment, there are two schools in particular that God puts us in to learn it. The first school is the school of lack. Paul says he knows how to be brought low. He knows how to face hunger. He knows how to face need and still be content. He's been to the school of lack. Do you remember the story in the book of acts, where the Apostle Paul is in Philippi and he's ministering with Silas, and they there's this young girl who's following them, and she's oppressed by demons.

And Paul cast the demons out of her. Well, the owners of that girl are not happy because she was making them an income. And so they decide to have Paul and Silas beaten and thrown into

prison. How did Paul and Silas respond to these beatings and their imprisonment? They spend their nights singing. They spend the night singing praises to God, giving thanks and praise to God.

They have power. He is learned to be content. In fact, the effect of it is God sends an earthquake, breaks them out of prison. The Philippian jailers convert his whole family's baptized extraordinary.

Are you in the school of lack today? Lacking money, lacking a job, lacking a significant other, lacking health, lacking a home? Or at least the home that you want, lacking honor or recognition? Lacking an answer to prayer? Would you believe that it's in exactly that place you're in right now, where God would have you discover the resurrection power that enables you to be content in this moment?

Not after you get the home, not after your healthy, not after your honored. Not after you're financially stable, but right here and now.

It's the temptation of all of us to look around us and say, you know, if I was in his condition, I could be content. If I was in her condition, I could be content. It's a lie. If we have not learned to be content in our present condition, we would not know true contentment in any other condition.

Contentment isn't about a position. It's not about a place. It's not about a possession. It's about a person. Now, does this mean we should never try to change our circumstances if we're in the school of lack, should we? Do we just need to accept it's God's will that I that I'm going to have this lack and I'm going to have it forever fatalistic.

Accept it. The answer is no. If we're in the school of lack, we should try to get what we need, what we perceive that we need. But we don't wait till we get it to be content. We actually pursue it from a position of contentment and of satisfaction, because our sense of satisfaction is not dependent on our circumstances.

It's dependent on Jesus, who is with us right now. G.K. Chesterton helps us to get a handle on contentment when he writes, being contented ought to mean in English as it does in French. Being pleased, being content with an attic ought not to mean being unable to move from it, and resigned to living in it. It ought to mean appreciating all that there is in such a position.

So, though you find yourself in the school of lack today in some way or another, doesn't mean you have to resign yourself to live there forever. But rather, while you're there, you've learned to appreciate all that God has for you in that place, and you've learned to appreciate the satisfaction that only Jesus can give, even in the midst of that lack.

So if you're sick, you should try to get well, but do not fail to appreciate all that God has for you to discover about the power of Jesus. Even in the midst of that miserable condition. And if your business is floundering, by all means do what it takes to fix it. But don't fail to appreciate along

the way the power of Jesus at work in you, enabling you to be content right in the here and now.

Even as you watch and wait.

The second school is the school of plenty. Now, given the choice, and I want to ask for a show of hands. But given the choice, most of us would prefer to learn contentment in the school of plenty than in the school of lack. Amen, Amen. We like the School of Plenty. That's the school we're all trying to get into.

It's a great school. Yeah. Charles Spurgeon was speaking a profound truth when he said, it's harder to know how to be a fool than it is to know how to be hungry. It's a tough school. The school of plenty. If Jesus never said that, it's easier to get a camel through the eye of a needle than to get a poor person into heaven.

He said that about people who, living in the school of plenty. It's a tough school in Naples, Florida, where I'm minister. We have a disproportionate number of people who are in the school of plenty and I suspect that's the case here at Briarwood as well. Many people living in the school of plenty, and there are really two levels of the School of Plenty.

The first level is the easier level. I think the person at the first level in the school of plenty is the person who gets everything they want, who achieves everything they've ever aspired to, who gets all the acclaim and recognition they ever wanted. They are the total success and the unique challenge for this person. Is not to commit suicide or self-destruct.

Now why would we say, would that be a temptation or a challenge for these people? But the reason why they're tempted to suicide and to self-destruction is because these people have realized in a way that most of us never will, that contentment doesn't come when we get it all. Contentment doesn't come when we get it all. And if they do not learn that the true secret of contentment is a person, namely the person of Jesus Christ.

Then they will lose hope that they will ever find it. The comedian Jim Carrey, who was on the top of the acting world for a period of time, said this I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of, so they can see that it's not the answer. Now, he hasn't yet discovered that the answer is Jesus, but he has put his finger on the problem.

King Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes, would agree. If you're one of those people and this first level of the school of plenty, I want you to be encouraged today. I want you to take heart today. You can be content. There is contentment out there.

But it's not found in another level, another position, another thing. It's found in the person of Jesus Christ. And when you meet him and you can meet him here today, he's just as far away as a as a whisper, a breath. When you meet him, you will discover that all the things that you used to live your life for are suddenly not as important as they used to be, but yet you might be able to appreciate them at a deeper level than you ever could before.

The Apostle Paul, the man who's writing this letter, he discovered this for himself, was an incredibly accomplished man. And yet, after he met Jesus, looking back on the rest of his life and everything he'd done and all he had been, he said by comparison, it's all like rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.

And I can tell you not just the Apostle Paul has discovered this, but many people have discovered that in Jesus we find.

What our hearts have been searching for all along.

The second level of the School of Plenty is, I think, the more challenging level, and it's the one far more of us live in.

And this is that you get almost everything you ever wanted in life. You get almost everything. This position is dangerous because in this position, you're most likely to continue thinking that if you just get to the next level, if you just get the one thing you still lack, then you'll be content and you can go through your whole life driving and going after it with everything that you have, and never realize that the secret to contentment is not an accomplishment.

It's not a thing. It's not a position. It's a person. And if you find yourself sitting there today and you're one of these people driving, going after it, wanting it, striving hard to get it, and you say, yes, I get it, that what you're saying? Jesus, is it. And I'm happy to have Jesus. I just also want x.

If that's where you're at and you're thinking I will be content with Jesus once, I also have X, I tell you, you probably don't have Jesus yet, because when you know him and you have this living relationship with him, you will discover that you don't have to have X. Sure, it might be nice, but you don't need it.

You're content with him. What school are you in today? Probably for most of us, in some parts of our life, we may feel like we're in the school of plenty, and in some parts of our life we may feel like we're in the school of lack. We're somewhat divided, but in both of these schools, the secret to contentment is exactly the same.

The ability to live in either one of them ultimately comes down to the power of the risen Lord, who lives inside of you, strengthening you to rejoice and be thankful and content. No matter your lot, no matter your situation. And you can learn this lesson and experience today, right now here your circumstances don't need to change for you to learn contentment.

You learn it right now. And that leads to the final point you need to make a decision. Contentment for the Christian is a choice. Paul says in verse 11, I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. If you are a Christian, you have the power today to make one of two choices in this moment. The first is you have the power to choose to be discontent.

And what does that look like? Well, it looks like continuing to live your life, striving, thinking that once you get the new house, once the sickness is over, once the circumstances change, then you can be content and until then you will grumble and complain about your current

circumstances. You will hop from relationship to relationship, from church to church, from job to job, from place to place, always thinking that the secret to contentment is in the next thing.

And if you choose this, you need to know you will not make a difference in the world for Christ. You will not make disciples. No one will ask you for a reason for the hope that is within you or why you are different, because it will not be evident. You will not be a person living on mission, on message, in ministry.

But that's not the only choice you have. You also have the power to choose to be content if you are in Christ. If you are a Christian, you have the power today to choose contentment, to live in light of the truth. That the same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in you, and you can apply that truth to your present circumstances.

Whether you're in want or you're in plenty. What does it look like when a person recognizes the power they have in the Christ who dwells in them? What does it sound like? It sounds like the missionary Hudson Taylor who said this. It makes no matter where he places me or how that is rather for him to consider than for me.

For in the easiest position he must give me his grace, and in the most difficult his grace is sufficient. If he puts me in the easiest situation, I still need his grace. He has to give it to me. And if he puts me in the most difficult, his grace will be enough. That's a person who's discovered the power, who's learned what it means to be content, not just in principle, but in experience.

Whether you're in want or in plenty, remember this you were separated from God by your sin, without God, without hope in this world. But God saw you in your separation, and he sees you and your separation from him. This morning, if you are still separated and in love before you ever thought of him, he was thinking of you and sent his only son, Jesus Christ, into this world to take on flesh, to dwell among us, to live the life, the contented, grateful life that you should have lived and to die the death on the cross, that you should have died in your place.

He rose again from the dead. On the third day he has risen. He ascended to the right hand of the father, and there he lives and reigns, and gives his Holy Spirit the gift of eternal life, salvation to everyone who calls upon his name, and with it the power to be satisfied, to be content whatever your circumstances. And it's free.

You simply need to ask him and he will give it for free. Can we be content with this? Oh yes, yes we can. As we enter this week of Thanksgiving, we can not only be content, but we can express it by intentionally giving thanks to God for the incalculable blessings he surrounded us with. And the more grateful we are, the more joyful we will be in our contented state.

You know, we're also on the verge of advent, and I know Doctor Dorian has a great advent series coming for you starting next week. But it's in the season of advent when we remember the longing of the early people of God for the first coming of Jesus. But we are also in a period of waiting for the second coming of Jesus.

And so much of what we long for right now is a reflection of the fact that we're waiting for the King to return, who will ultimately satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts in a way that nothing in this world ever will. Brothers and sisters, have you come to learn the secret that Hudson Taylor knew? That the Apostle Paul knew that contentment is not found in a change of circumstances.

It's not found in an acquisition of possessions or any higher position, but rather through the power of the person who lives in you. If not, I invite you to learn the secret today by calling upon Jesus. The question of contentment only comes down to this will you trust yourself to achieve, to buy, to find whatever you think will give you contentment?

Or will you trust Christ? If you trust Christ, then you can say with the Apostle Paul, in any and every circumstances I have learned the secret. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Let's pray.

Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of contentment. We thank you that he's taken away all of our sins. He's reconciled us to you, and that you have given us the gift of your Spirit to empower us to live a holy life, a life on mission, a life exhibiting the all surpassing worth of Jesus.

Forgive us for where we've fallen short and help us to live it. And for those who don't yet know you, Lord, I pray that even now you would remove the blinders from their hearts to see the all surpassing worth of Jesus, and that they would call upon his name even today and be saved. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.