

Concern + Opportunity = Amply Supplied

Background

- Paul wrote 14 of the 27 books in the New Testament.
- Paul wrote 4 Letters (Epistles) whilst he was in a Roman prison (60-62 AD).

*Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians
and Philemon.*

- The letter to the Philippians is known as Paul's 'happiest letter.' **Joy** is used 16 times.
- The Philippi church sent financial assistance and other gifts to Paul through their representative, Epaphroditus.

*Philippians 4:10-20 (niv) I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were **concerned**, but you had no **opportunity** to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do all this*

*through Him who gives me strength. ¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am **amply supplied**, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God **will meet all your needs** according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Philippi church was a giving church.

Because of their financial support to his Apostolic ministry, Paul declares that *My God will meet all your needs... vs. 19*

This is a promise to giving people.

We cannot claim this promise of provision if we are not a giving person!

***Philippians 4:10** I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no **opportunity** to show it.*

Paul knew the power of two things coming together that are meant to be together.

Paul identifies their **concern** for his ministry and wellbeing and yet they had no **opportunity** to show it.

CONCERN WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY IS INEFFECTIVE.

Concern needs a cause. An outlet, an expression, an opportunity.

Concern outworked through opportunity makes all the difference

Without concern we can walk through a life of opportunities and do nothing about them.

OPPORTUNITY WITHOUT CONCERN IS INEFFECTIVE.

The poor and needy have always existed. Opportunity has always been present.

We must combine concerned hearts with opportunities.

The two separate produce nothing!

COMPASSION IS MORE THAN AN EMOTION.

Compassion is when we add an action to the feeling that moved us. To help and benefit those whom we are concerned about.

We can train our hearts to be compassionate.

If we have the ability to harden our hearts, then we also have the ability to soften our hearts.

SELFISHNESS EATS AWAY AT OUR CONCERN LEVEL.

If we are consistently more concerned about ME, we will be less concerned about others!

Philippians 2:3-4 (niv) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

To allow our hearts to be more responsive will change us from a person who withholds to a person who generously gives.

God rewards concerned hearts that consistently respond to opportunities that benefits others.

To these people and to those churches, Paul says, *My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. (vs. 19)*

**Big Idea: CONCERN + OPPORTUNITY
= AMPLY SUPPLIED**

**Genuine concern expressed through
opportunity makes all the difference.**

This is why we are actively and passionately participating in World Missions.