



In the Meantime, Pt. 3: Yes You Can

It's helpful to remember that the New Testament authors were not strangers to in-the-meantime circumstances. There were times where they felt discontentment. The problem with discontentment is that it can drive us toward self-destructive decisions and regrets. Discontentment can be dangerous. The Apostle Paul had an affliction he described as painful, humiliating, debilitating, and permanent. Yet he claimed God's grace/power was sufficient. So, what is the secret of finding contentment even when times are tough?

Bottom Line: Learn the secret of contentment: Christ in you, empowering you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss a time when you were really excited about something (a new toy, a vacation, a promotion; etc.), but when you received it, that "something" just didn't live up to the expectation you had.
2. Talk about a season in your life when you were fully content. What was it about that season that fed your contentment?
3. Do you know someone who lives with discontentment? How does it affect the quality of his or her life?
4. What are some things that make it difficult for you to believe God may do extraordinary and unexpected things through your challenging circumstances?
5. What is your primary source of discontentment right now? How would your current season look different if you were able to resist the forces, pressures, and temptations of your circumstances?
6. **Read Philippians 4:10–13.** Does the kind of contentment the apostle Paul describes seem achievable in your own life? Why or why not?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.