



SHORELINE.CHURCH



DELIGHT

AUGUST 2021

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP
COMMUNITY

DELIGHT IN ALL SEASONS

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

The apostle Paul's sentiment here in 2 Corinthians is a bold statement. Does he really delight in the painful things in life like weaknesses, hardships, and difficulties? That sounds challenging to understand until you look at the heart behind his words: a life with God is better than all present circumstances, no matter how difficult they might be. The delight that Paul speaks of is the awareness that when we face hardships, we can experience Christ's power even more fully because, when we are weak, He makes us strong.

Paul lived a life inundated with education and law with success in both. Even still, he was not content nor did he consider it something to strive for. When he met Jesus, he was able to recognize that through Him, we can let go and be content in everything knowing that first, He delights in us (Psalm 18:19). Even while in the belly of a damp, dark prison, Paul wrote that he was able to do anything with Christ and in that trust he was content (Philippians 4:11-13).

Biblical contentment is wholly different from worldly contentment. The world thinks of contentment in tangible terms: job, money, relationships, etc. Biblical contentment is found when we lean into God and trust Him. To find peace and contentment in Jesus, as Paul did, we must trust His plans for us even when we are unsure of what is ahead (Jeremiah 29:11).

Not every season is a happy season. Not every season is a successful season. Not every season has highlights to post about, but in every season we can find delight in our God because He delights in us enough to always bring us through into victory.

In the following pages, we will be reminded that delight can be found in any and all seasons of life, that the foundation of our delight is the Word of God, and that delight is something that we learn and practice. We invite you this month to learn to confidently declare, just as our beloved apostle declares:

**FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST,
I WILL DELIGHT!**



DELIGHT IN THE WORD

MATCH

Look up each verse reference in the left column below. Match each passage with the phrase that best describes the passage by drawing a line between the two.

Isaiah 26:3-4

A healthy tree consistently bearing fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-9

We cannot take anything with us after death.

Proverbs 14:30

Difficulties produce perseverance, character, and hope.

Romans 5:1-5

Envy causes us pain.

1 Timothy 6:6-7

Steadfast trust in God.

WRITE

Choose one of the passages above that resonated with you, instructed you, or reminded you of a specific truth. Write out your selected passage in the space below. Attempt to memorize your selected passage this week.

REFLECT

What does your selected passage have to say about the life of a person who lives in delight and contentment?



DELIGHT IS LEARNED

Underline, circle, or highlight each occurrence of the word "learned" in the passage below.

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 all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11-13.

By nature, we are discontented creatures. But Paul tells us that he *learned* contentment; it did not come to him as soon as he became a Christian. As he walked through various circumstances in life, he learned to depend on Christ. Finish the phrases below and reflect on the next steps you can take toward delighting in your present circumstances. Learning takes time, but it stretches us beyond what we think we are capable of doing!

WHEN I AM TRYING TO CONTROL MY CIRCUMSTANCES AND FIND CONTENTMENT ON MY OWN TERMS, I FIND MYSELF...

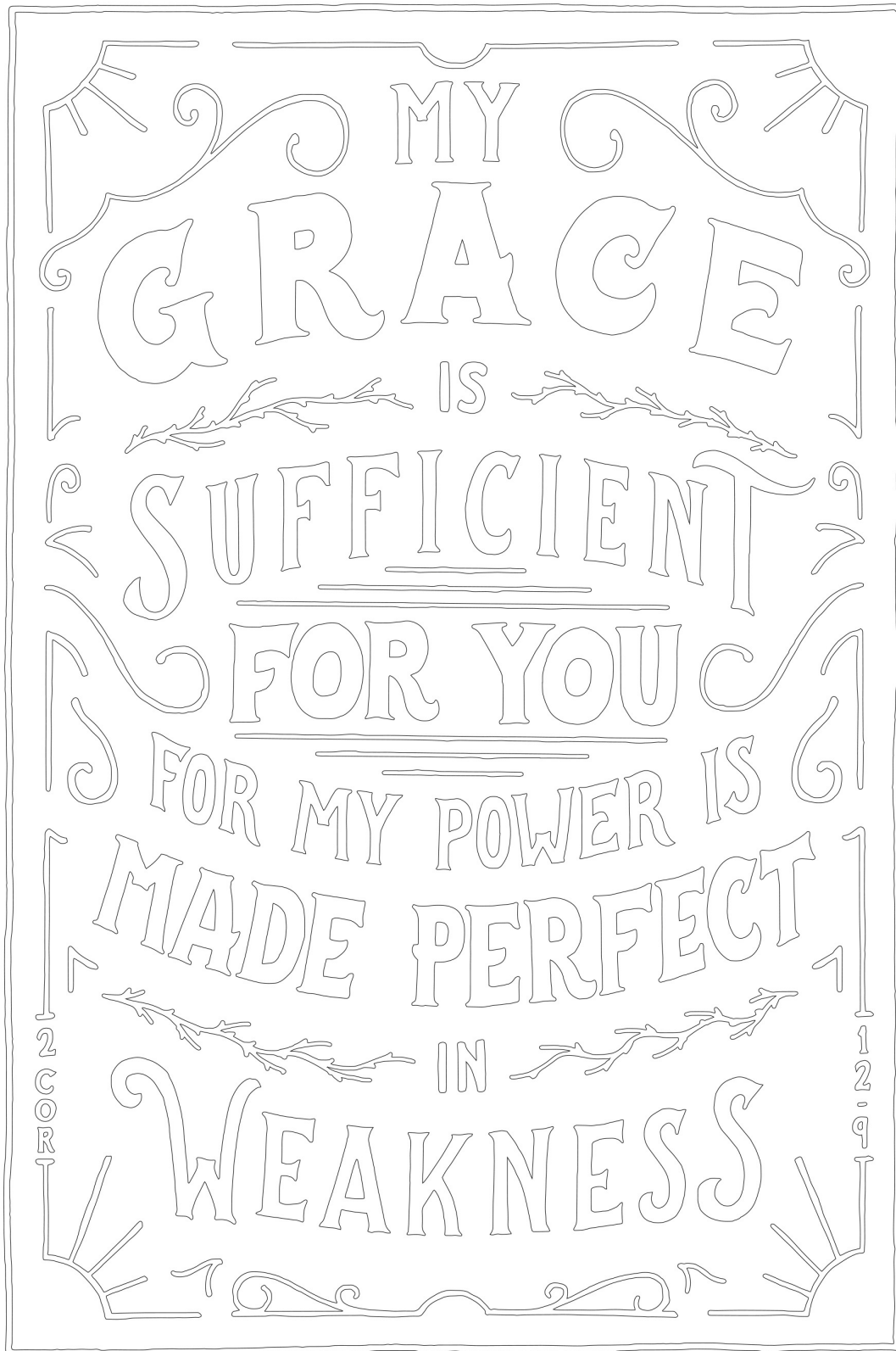
I FEEL THE MOST DISCONTENT WHEN I...

ONE STEP I COULD TAKE TO FIND DELIGHT AND CONTENTMENT IN JESUS CHRIST IS...



1 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

Use the coloring page below to reflect on our discussion about biblical contentment.



MORE RESOURCES

Interested in going deeper? Here are a few resources to help you continue to reflect on biblical contentment. The Bible study resources from RightNow Media require an account to access. Set up your free account courtesy of Shoreline Church at www.shoreline.church/rightnow-media.

BOOKS & ARTICLES

Satisfied: Discovering Contentment in a World of Consumption by Jeff Manion

Satisfied: Finding Hope, Joy, and Contentment Right Where You Are by Alyssa Joy Bethke

One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are by Ann Voskamp

BIBLE STUDIES

The Good Life by Pete Briscoe on RightNow Media

The Book of Philippians by Jo Saxon on RightNow Media

Fight Back with Joy by Margaret Feinberg on RightNow Media

SERMONS & PODCASTS

"Contentment Changes Your World" Attitude is Everything! Sermon Series with Jeff Manion, Shoreline Church

"Enjoy What God Gives You" Freedom Life Health Sermon Series with Kevin Harney, Shoreline Church

"Learning Contentment in a Culture of More" Proverbs 31 Ministries Podcast with Melissa Spoelstra and the P31 Team

CHECK OUT OUR PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY!

Search our profile, ShorelineMonterey or the name of the playlist: "August 2021 Women's Discipleship Community."

Spotify's search bar is case-sensitive. Be sure to include proper capitalization and spacing!

JOIN OUR PRAYER WALL!

Post a prayer request and join us in praying for the women in our Women's Discipleship Community. This page will be private to just our group!

www.shoreline.church/prayer-wall

