

MAKING GOD COUNT

Dear Friend:

Who really counts in your life? Who do you know you can really depend on or seek good advice from? I hope you would say your spouse (if you're married). Perhaps it would be a longtime friend or another relative. Humanly speaking, we count on those we feel love us, look-out for us, and are trustworthy.

Spiritually speaking, I hope you count on God above everyone else. The apostle Paul could really count on the Philippian Christians. In Philippians 4, he gave them four ways to show that they really counted on God. The first way: COMMIT YOUR CONCERNS TO GOD (4:6-7). Of all the churches Paul wrote to, he was the most positive and most pleased with the people at Philippi. Although they were commended for their joy several times in Philippians, Paul reminded them: "Do not be anxious and commit your concerns to God"...present your requests to God. You know what anxious means, right? It means that your mind and your stomach are twisted like a Pennsylvania pretzel!

The second way to make God count: CHANGE YOUR PATTERN OF THINKING (4:8). Don't think like the world (stinkin thinkin), put a God filter on your mind. When the devil or the world tries to pour negative thoughts in, tell them to get out! Ask the Lord to draw you close to Him and protect your mind!

The third way: BE A CONTRIBUTOR NOT A CONSUMER (4:10-11). The Philippians sent aid to Paul to help him on his missionary journeys. They sent help in the way of a co-worker, prayers, and financial help. They wanted to contribute to God's work through Paul. They wanted to make God count.

The fourth way: CHOOSE TO BE CONTENT: Americans are not very good at being content. Mostly, they are content with a lot as long as it is a lot more! Paul went from the highest of highs in a worldly sense, to the lowest of lows. However, it was at the lowest of lows that he was the strongest spiritually. When he made God count in his life, he learned to be content. My prayer for you is that you make God count every day!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer Concerns: Stan Stanley (Chris's dad, double pneumonia), Gabe Smith (cancer battle is back), Praise God for Building Fund Commitment: \$20,000 and still going!

Events: Book blessing Sunday. Valentine's Day weekend, tell someone you love them!