

I see a CHURCH

Part 3 • September 6, 2026 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

THE TENSION : CONTENTION + CONTENTMENT

CONTENTMENT

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 (ESV)

Not that I am 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.

CONTENDING

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 (ESV)

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Tension:

I press (Philippians 3), yet **I am content** (Philippians 4).

I can be content with what God has given me without becoming complacent about what God has promised me.

I am both enough and in need of the more.

A Kingdom Church and Believer Understands:

1. WE BELIEVE WE ARE ENOUGH BECAUSE WE ARE HIS.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 (NIV)

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

God provides seed to the sower and bread to eat. You already have seed in your hand. Do not talk down to the tiny seed that will grow into a mighty harvest.

2. WE BELIEVE THERE IS MORE BECAUSE WE ARE HIS.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7 (NLT)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The size of the harvest is determined by the amount of seed sown.

Little produces little. A lot produces a lot.

3. WE BELIEVE WE MUST CONTEND FOR MORE BECAUSE WE ARE HIS.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 (NIV)

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

God will always provide everything we need - and more - so we can be a blessing to those around us.

Contentment and Contending

- Contentment: Jesus is enough for me.
- Contending: But I have not experienced everything Jesus has for me.

The Lesson of Tension.

Jesus told us about Lot's wife.

LUKE 17:32 (NKJV)

Remember Lot's wife.

A person who said no words - why remember her? She had a voice and chose not to use it.

She gave into the poverty mindset when God had more of her. All she had to do was to not look back!