

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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## The Joy Of Generous Living

Paul thanks the church at Philippi (in Philippians 4) for their generous gift. He compares their giving to three very familiar things.

A budding tree (v. 10). The word “flourished” carries the idea of a flower or tree budding or blossoming. Often we go through “winter seasons” spiritually, but then the spring arrives and there is new life and blessing. The tree itself is not picked up and moved; the circumstances are not changed. The difference is the new life within.

An investment (vv. 14–17). Paul looked on their missionary gift as an investment that would pay them rich spiritual dividends. The word “communicate” is our familiar word “fellowship.” The church entered into an arrangement of “giving and receiving”; the church gave materially to Paul, and received spiritually from the Lord. The Lord keeps the books and will never fail to pay one spiritual dividend! That church is poor that fails to share materially with others.

A sacrifice (v. 18). Paul looked on their gift as a spiritual sacrifice, laid on the altar to the glory of God. There are such things as “spiritual sacrifices” in the Christian life (see 1 Peter 2:5). We are to yield our bodies as spiritual sacrifices (Rom. 12:1–2), as well as the praise of our lips (Heb. 13:15). Good works are a sacrifice to the Lord (Heb. 13:16), and so are the lost souls that we are privileged to win to Christ (Rom. 15:16). Here, Paul sees the Philippian believers as priests, giving their offering as a sacrifice to the Lord. In the light of Malachi 1:6–14, we need to present the very finest that we have to the Lord.

But Paul does not see this gift as simply coming from Philippi. He sees it as the supply of his need from heaven. Paul’s trust was in the Lord. There is an interesting contrast between Philippians 4:18 and 19. We might state it this way if we were to paraphrase Paul: “You met my need, and God is going to meet your need. You met one need that I have, but my God will meet all of your needs. You gave out of your poverty, but God will supply your needs out of His riches in glory!”

God has not promised to supply all our “greeds.” When the child of God is in the will of God, serving for the glory of God, then he will have every need met. Hudson Taylor often said, “When God’s work is done in God’s way for God’s glory, it will not lack for God’s supply.”

## KEY VERSE

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Philippians 4:14-23; II Corinthians 8:1-3**

### The Joy Of Encouraging Workers

1. What is the most generous thing that someone has done for you?
2. How can you be generous in a way that encourages others?

**Tuesday: Philippians 4:15-16; Mark 16:15**

### The Joy Of Advancing The Gospel

3. What does Paul say regarding the generosity of the Philippian church?
4. Why do you think they were so generous? How is partnering to advance the gospel a joyful experience?

**Wednesday: Philippians 4:17; Matthew 6:19-21**

### The Joy Of Investing In Eternal Reward

5. Today's verse in Philippians says that fruit from your generosity is credited to you account. What eternal rewards might you have?
6. How can you keep an eternal perspective in your life ?

**Thursday: Philippians 4:18; Malachi 3:10**

### The Joy Of Pleasing God

7. How do you enjoy sharing what God has given you?
8. What do you have that you can honor God with?
9. In what ways is your life a "sweet-smelling" sacrifice that pleases God?

**Friday: Philippians 4:19; Proverbs 3:9-10; Luke 6:38**

### The Joy Of Having Your Needs Supplied

10. God promises us that He will supply our needs. Why is He trustworthy?
11. Describe how God has supplied what you have needed.
12. How do you determine what a need is in your life?