

Rejoice in the Lord! & The Peace of God #2

Philippians 4: 4-7

Holly Hills Bible Church

9:00 a.m. *Philippians Class Study* . 01 September 2024

HHBC



Philippians 4:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men.

The Lord is near.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



‘Be anxious for nothing is an imperative command – one of the 4 in 4:4-7:

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|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Rejoice in the Lord | [PRESENT;ACTIVE; IMPERATIVE] |
| 2) Let your gentle spirit be known to all men | [AORIST; PASSIVE; IMP] |
| 3) Be anxious for nothing. | [PRES; ACT; IMP] |
| 4) Let your requests be known to God. | [PRES; PASS; IMP] |

- Present Tense: tells us to not be constantly in the moment: anxious, or *worried / concerned / fretting . . .*
- Other synonyms for anxiousness: being full of care about a thing, exercising caution
- Wuest has: ‘stop perpetually worrying about even one thing’



Paul's mind is Christ's Mind on the matter of anxiousness: the proof text, Mat. 6:25-34

“For this reason I say to you, ***do not be worried about your life***, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?

And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! ***Do not worry then***, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’

For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



anxious = *merimna* in Greek from: *merizō* (to be divided; separated into factions)

Anxiety – worry: how is it a division, a splitting into factions?

Wuest: I Pet. 5:7: the word ‘cast’ is not the ordinary meaning ‘to throw’. But one which signifies a definite act of the will in committing to Him our worries, giving them up to Him. That means we are through worrying about the matter. We will let God assume responsibility for our welfare in the premises. And that is what He desires to do.

It is a care to Him concerning you.... Or stated familiarly: ‘your welfare is His concern’

We, being saved, now part of His family, has undertaken the responsibility for our welfare. If that is true: how is worrying perpetually logically valid?

(There is an early Greek manuscript with the proper name of a man named: *Titedios Amerimnos*)

‘FOR NOTHING’: *not even in one thing* (Wuest)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



‘BUT’:

strong contrast; ‘nay, rather in everything’: *alla*

‘in everything’:

anxiety for nothing / (alla) prayer for EVERYTHING . . . Quite a contrast

The Spirit of God points the way out. He wants me to bring everything-the great things and the little things, the perplexing conditions and the trying circumstances-into the presence of God and leave them there (H.A. Ironside)

“By:

Prayer & Supplication” -

Characteristics:

- Asking God for things specifically with humility & dependence
- In the Spirit
- Asking with regularity in the Lord Jesus Christ’s name (perseverance)
- Confessed of sins; conditionally sanctified
- With an attitude of thanksgiving: good things & bad (means of growth)
- Correspondence/ intercourse with God
- In the Will of God: that He and His Son be glorified through the petition

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



C.H. Mackintosh:

‘Prayer is the earnest breathing of the new man, drawn forth by the operation of the Holy Ghost, who dwells in all true believers. **Hence, to find any one praying, is to find him manifesting divine life in one of its most touching and beautiful characteristics**, namely dependence. There may be a vast amount of ignorance displayed in the prayer, both in its character and object; (*Rom. 8:26*) but the spirit of prayer is, unquestionably, divine.’

What if God keeps the Thing producing Worry/ anxiousness in place standing?

J.B. Stoney: e.g. Paul asking God three times to remove the thorn in his flesh... Through persistent prayer, Paul was brought to: *‘Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.’* II Cor. 12:9

- which was Paul being transformed into moral correspondence with God’s mind
- If He doesn’t change the circumstance, He will change you into transform you into the circumstance
- God delights in the asking from us about such things

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



J.B. Stoney:

- 'let your requests be made to God': not for His benefit, this is for your benefit— Know that ***you*** ***know*** you told Him about it.
- “I have been to the Lord about it”
- Pray studiously, pertinaciously until you know
- (*Pertinaciously = adhere to it; with stubbornness; stubbornly tenacious*)

'Ministry' by J.B. Stoney, No. 1 (p.119-20), No. 2 (p.159), No. 5 (159-60): Kingston Bible Trust, England

5 Then He said to them, “**Suppose one of you has a friend**, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. 11 Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” LUKE 11

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



J.B. Stoney's outline to Luke 11:

- I. I have a Friend
- II. He has what I want
- III. I cannot do without it
- IV. I have nowhere else to get it

You are not praying if you say: *'Well, if that does not succeed I have another string to my bow, I'll have another try with someone else...'*

It is not only to tell Him the great things, but the little things as well. Tell Him everything. I may tell a friend everything, but he gives me no relief; not so with God. I can tell all out, but no one will relieve me but God alone. [JBS]

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And then: the peace of God will guard your hearts & minds in Christ Jesus

Most important: it is the peace of God, not peace with God

- Not: *‘Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,’* Rom 5:1 [this is an eternally settled thing much beforehand]
- It is God’s peace down from Him, intimate, face-to-face peace
- His peace, Jn 14:27: *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*
- Emphasis: nearness to God
- Stoney: He will give me His own State on the matter (or transform my state into His)
- *Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”* Gal. 4:6

PEACE:

Not merely uncomplaining acquiescence: but DIVINE TRANQUILITY in the matter

Other definitions of peace: **harmony, concord—**

How about harmony, concordance with Him and His Will / interests on the matter?



And to what extent does He give you His peace?

It will surpass your ability to understand it

Stoney again:

I know the trouble, but instead of getting the trouble altered, I get altered myself. To what extent? To an inconceivable extent. It passes all understanding. What a condition! But it is within the reach of the poorest, most suffering person in this world.

Think of having the peace of God Himself!

I come back, not untroubled, but unruffled—

It is like the difference between a land-bird and a water-bird. A water-bird oils his feathers before he goes into the water; not a feather is disturbed. I come out unruffled. I have been with God, and the most marvelous alteration has taken place in me, not in the circumstance, but in *me*, thank God!



A promise to guard our hearts & minds in Christ Jesus—

The situation explained colorfully by Ironside:

I cannot obtain this peace for myself. I may tell myself over and over not to fret, but my thoughts, **like untamed horses with bits in their teeth, run away with me. Or like an attacking army, worries crowd into the citadel of my mind and threaten to overwhelm me—**

- But God, by the Holy Spirit, has promised to garrison my mind and protect my restless heart so that my thoughts will neither run away with me nor overwhelm me. Every thought will be brought into captivity to the obedience to Christ [II Cor 10:5]
- ‘SHALL KEEP’ your heart and mind [KJV]: mount a guard over; God's peace, like a sentinel, patrols before the heart. (Vine)
- Tennyson: 'encompassed by his faithful guard'... a sentinel who moves about from place to place and whispers to the worlds of space in the deep night: that **‘all is well’** (see Vine’s)
- *He is surrounded with such blessed privileges that he is as safe as one in an impregnable castle...* Gurnall (see Vine’s)

