



DO YOU HAVE PEACE? Philippians 4:1-7

By Shepherd Jewel Manzay

Read Philippians 4:1-7

- I. REACTING TO OTHERS - Philippians 4:1-3
 - a. The Need for Steadfastness v. 1
 - i. Paul addresses them as “my beloved brethren”-his attitude expresses his love for them.
 - ii. He also addresses them as his joy & crown. His joy was his ministry in their lives- not worldly things. He expresses the same attitude in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
 - iii. He instructs them to “stand firm in the Lord”
 1. In facing false teachers and enemies of the Cross
 2. Stand firm and persevere as a “pattern of life”.
 - b. The Necessity of Unity v. 2-3
 - i. Members were urged to intervene in the difficulties of Euodia and Syntyche
 1. Euodia means “prosperous journey”
 2. Syntyche means “to meet with or come to”
 - ii. If we expect to have a good journey, we must meet with those with whom we disagree.
 - iii. He encourages the women to live in harmony with the Lord. He also asks his “true yokefellow to help them who labored with him, Clement, and the other fellow laborers.
- II. REJOICING IN THE LORD - Philippians 4: 4
 - a. The PATTERN of rejoicing-“ALWAYS”
 - i. The term “rejoice” suggests that it should be continuous and on-going. But Paul also adds the term, ALWAYS for emphasis.
 - b. The PLACE of rejoicing-“IN THE LORD”
 - i. Every Christian must rejoice in the Lord and not our circumstances and situations.
 - c. The PRIORITY of rejoicing- “AGAIN REJOICE”-make it a habit of your life.
- III. RELAXING BEFORE OTHERS - Philippians 4: 5
 - a. The NATURE of this relaxing...”let your moderation (forbearing spirit)-this refers to being fair and equitable in dealing with others. It is a yielding spirit.
 - i. 1 Timothy 3:3-pastors/elders are to be patient/yielding.
 - ii. Titus 3:2-exhorts Christians to be gentle and meek
 - iii. James 3:17-God’s wisdom is gentle; peaceable
 - iv. 1 Peter 2:18-masters are expected to be gentle.
 - v. Our gentleness must be exhibited to “all men”
 - b. The NEARNESS of the Lord.. “the Lord is at hand.”
 - i. Might refer to second coming of the Lord-soon.
 - ii. Probably refers to the fact of Jesus being with us at all times.
 - iii. His spirit is also within us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

IV. RESTING IN THE LORD - Philippians 4: 6-7

- a. The PRINCIPLE of Trust.. "be anxious for nothing".
 - i. Humans are predisposed to worry about things, circumstances, situations, events, and the like
 - ii. This verse says "be anxious/careful about nothing. It requires us to trust God for all our needs.
 - iii. Be anxious means "to be divided or distracted; to disunite; apportion"
 - iv. Jesus addresses this issue with Martha in Luke 10:41-42
 - v. To increase our trust we must accept that all good and perfect things come from God(James 1:17)
 - vi. And that all things work together for our good-Romans 8:28
 - vii. Trusting God will be peace and joy to our hearts.
 1. Prayer-the word could be translated "worship" as it carries the idea of giving thanks to God rather than making a demand of God.
 2. Supplication-emphasizes the matter of urgent need and request. It is the prayer offered when the pressure is on. Luke 11:5-10 offers a good example. See also Luke 18: 1-8. In both scriptures the Lord is teaching that we must persist in our asking with a degree of urgency.
 3. Requests-it simply means to ask. We are encouraged to ask God for what we need.
 4. Thanksgiving-is the key word in the verse. It teaches us that our failure to thank Him is the root of our lack of peace and joy.
 - a. Even in the face of difficulties and trials we must continue to thank God. These scriptures confirm this: Romans 8: 18-25; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 1 Peter 5: 8-10.
 - viii. Let your requests be made known to God...our requests should go to God before anyone else.
- b. The PEACE that Controls our Lives.. "and the peace of God which..."
 - i. Peace is highly desired and sought by man. Many go to great lengths to get.
 - ii. Romans 5:1 teaches that peace begins with faith in God.
 - iii. Once we have peace based on faith we can grow on to peace as part of the fruit of the spirit-Galatians 5:22. This peace:
 1. Surpasses ALL understanding-it is above all other.
 2. It will guard our hearts and mind in Jesus Christ. God's peace provides wonderful security for us.
 - a. Hearts and minds-both will be "kept" by the peace of God.
 - iv. In Christ Jesus-all of these things are done in Christ.
 - v. In Christ we have nothing to fear. Without Christ we have everything to fear.

V. Reflection Questions

- a. Why do you think it is so easy to worry?
- b. What have you allowed to disturb your peace with God?
- c. How can we build bridge with people with whom we disagree?
- d. How can you make rejoicing in the Lord a habit?