

Philippians 4:2-9 English Standard Version (ESV)

Exhortation, Encouragement, and Prayer

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

This portion of Scripture before us today the apostle Paul is teaching us what to do to experience the extraordinary supernatural peace of God. The apostle Paul knows how important it is to have experience the peace of God because as Christians we will encounter difficulties and we will be persecuted as Christians. To go through life and run a good race we need the Peace of God. The peace of God assures and re-assures us of God's presence in our difficult moment.

So for us to experience this peace this extraordinary supernatural empowerment that surpasses all truth our heart needs to be in the right place and that is why he is dealing here elusively with the human heart. When the Scripture speaks about the heart it is not referring to the organ that pumps blood throughout our bodies, but it uses the word *heart* to signify the soul which is the eternal part of us. The heart is the essence of who we are. It's the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors.

Since the fall, the heart of man that once was at peace with God is now at war with God. Since the fall man has had and continues to have a wicked heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Matthew 12:34 (ESV)

You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Luke 6:45 (ESV)

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

So let us now break the passage piece by piece to see what God is telling us today;

1. Unity in the Church – Through Reconciliation

At first when we look at the first two verses we read that is Philippians 4:2-3, the first thing that came to my mind is reconciliation. This is true, Paul entreats these two Godly women, Euodia and Syntyche, and he urges them in the strongest terms. He entreats them; he begs them to agree in the Lord, to be reconciled to one another. For whatever division has come in between them that has separated them in their friendship and in their co-working in the gospel, he wants that to be overcome.

There needs to be reconciliation for a greater purpose and that purpose is the peace in the church. Notice that these two women are not just ne converts or baby Christians; look at the way Paul describes them in verse 3 - who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Paul knows if they do not make amendment there could be division in the church and not only do these two suffer but the whole body

Ephesians 4:1-6 English Standard Versions (ESV)

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

We see how importance the unity in the church is here, Paul did not only address these women he calls the whole church to help them.

1 Corinthians 12:26 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

So the first step mentioned here in order to enjoy God's peace is unity.

2. Rejoice always

Deuteronomy 12:7 English Standard Version (ESV)

7 And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 English Standard Version (ESV)

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

3. Be reasonable

(ESV) Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

(Geneva) Let your patient mind be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

(GNB) Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon.

(ISV) Let your gracious attitude be known to all people. The Lord is near:

(KJV) Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

4. Don't worry. Pray instead

And then he says, don't worry. Don't worry. Pray instead, because God knows your needs. Look at verse 6:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

He's calling on us to show trust and confidence in God in all situations.

You know what, when I read this verse the first thing that came to my mind was that song;
You give and take away, my heart will choose to say, blessed be Your name.

Job 1:20-22 English Standard Version (ESV)

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Romans 8:28 English Standard Version (ESV)

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,[a] for those who are called according to his purpose.

You see when we put our trust in the Lord and we focus only on Him, we have that assurance that no matter the situation, no matter the circumstances God is in control, we are then built up and we glorify Him. We rejoice in the Lord, who never changes. He is bigger than our circumstances which are always changing.

Psalms 27:1-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

*27 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*² When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,*

it is they who stumble and fall.

*³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;*

*though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.*

*⁴ One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:*

*that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,*

*to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.*

*⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;*

*he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.*

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV)

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [26] Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? [27] And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? [28] And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, [29] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. [30] But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ [32] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34] “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

5. The promise

Then comes the promise, and you see it in verse 7:

“And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

John 14:27 English Standard Version (ESV)

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

6. Live Out Godly Virtues (4:8-9)

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, **and the God of peace will be with you.**

Colossians 3:1-4 English Standard Version (ESV)

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.