

The Peace of God

Philippians 4:2-9

Peace

- **Mirriam-Webster Dictionary: “a state of tranquility or quiet: such as ... freedom from civil disturbance ... freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions ... harmony in personal relations.”**
- **Peace with God through Christ**
- **Peace within ourselves by Christ**
- **Peace with others in Christ**

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 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.

Philippians 4:1-9, cont.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:1-9, cont.

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.

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1. Life Has Challenges, Phil. 4:2-5

- Conflict between two good women
- “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone” – “Reasonableness” or “gentleness” (*epieikes*) means “The temper which contents itself with less than its due, and shrinks from insisting on its strict rights.”
- The goal in Christian fellowship should first be to win the person, and not to win the argument.

The Importance of Listening

2 Cor. 10:1-8: “I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ ... For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh... our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you.”

James 1:19: “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

2. The Peace of God, Phil. 4:6-7

- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
- A change of heart: *merimnao*, “be anxious” means to focus on one issue and ignore others.

2. The Peace of God, Phil. 4:6-7

- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
- Bring your concerns to God. “Our Father who is in heaven,” not just “My Father.”

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- Thanksgiving: all valid concerns of Christians are God’s concerns first and foremost.

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- God’s peace (source), surpasses knowledge (not human), guards our hearts (powerful).

Alexander MacLaren quote:

“Men have not peace, because in most of them everything is topmost that ought to be undermost, and everything undermost that ought to be uppermost... The more regal part of the man’s nature is suppressed, and trodden under foot; and the servile parts, which ought to be under firm restraint, and guided by a wise hand, are too often supreme, and wild work comes of that.”

3. The God of Peace, Phil. 4:8-9

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True: “What cannot be hidden,” eternal truths of God

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Honorable: weighty, worthy, that takes us to our knees in worship

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Just: the righteousness of God in thought and action

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Pure: undefiled, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8)

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Lovely: endearing, moral and physical beauty, God is a God of beauty.

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Commendable: good report, what angels speak about, what is important to God.

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*Excellence and worthy of praise: commendable
moral goodness*

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Think: let them be the object of your careful attention and study.

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Major Wes Bowers

Royal Canadian Air Force



Wes Bowers



“I believed only because it would get me to heaven. I didn’t really care for a relationship with God.”

- **“In the tiny cockpit of my helicopter, I made a decision that would change the course of my life: I turned my situation over to the Lord.”**
- **“Suddenly, and inexplicably, my anxiety left and I felt quite calm as I placed my life in God’s hands.”**