

Philippians

(16) Rejoice, the Lord is near

Phil 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NIV

Paul admonishes the brothers, because the Lord is near...4:4-6

Having dealt w/squabbles in the church (4:2-3), what does Paul now command? 4:4; Rom.8:38

Rejoice in the Lord always! Note this is not a flippant joy. It's deeply rooted in the Lord.

When do you find it most difficult to *rejoice in the Lord*? Why??

After 'rejoice', what is Paul's immediate command? 4:5a; Titus 3:1-2

Let your gentleness (moderation, gentle spirit) be evident to all! That is, be like Jesus!

And what is his motivation for rejoicing/being gentle to all? 4:5b; James 5:8-9; Heb.13:5-6

It's the fact that the Lord is near (both in time and location). Soon return, always with us.

Because the Lord is near, what is his next command? 4:6a see Heb.13:5-6; Mt.6:34

Don't be anxious about anything! Anxious has the root of being distracted.

Instead of being anxious, what are we to be doing? 4:6b; Mt.6:25-33

In everything, by prayer, petition, w/thanksgiving, make your requests to God.

What's the difference between a prayer and a petition (supplication)? 4:6

Prayer is asking. The word for petition means 'to beg or plead'. Deep, emotional.

Why does Paul emphasize pleading w/God *with thanksgiving*? Luke 17:11-19; IThess.5:17-18

Being thankful to the One who forgives you everything is the basis for our prayers!

The transcendent peace of God...4:7

When we pray/plead, rejoicing, knowing the Lord is near, what happens to us? 4:7; Rom.15:33

We have the peace of God. The peace that the world can never know or comprehend.

What does Jesus say about the peace that *the world* craves? Mt.10:34-36

He is not now bringing that peace. Rather He brings a sword! Saved vs. unsaved.

What about for His own? Jn.14:27; Rom.5:1; Eph3:19; IPet.1:3-9

For the saved, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus.

How does having peace *with* God and the peace *of* God impact our living? Rom.12:18; Gal.5:22

As far as it depends on us, live in peace. Forgiving, loving, gentleness toward all.

And what does having/living such peace do for us? 4:7

It will guard (garrison, protect) our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Only true peace!

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