

A PRAYER THAT BRINGS PEACE

Philippians 4:7, 8
From: Scott Carlson
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INTRODUCTION: THE PHILIPPIANS

Paul had a special place in his heart for the Christians at Philippi.

Philippians 1:8

For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

? What kind of stand results in this kind of peace?

Command	Superlative	Qualification
Rejoice	Always	In the Lord
Make gentleness known	To all men	The Lord is near
Don't be anxious... pray	About nothing...in everything	With Thanksgiving

Today, I would like to focus on that final quality of the stand that leads to peace.

I. DON'T BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING

There was a lot of potential for this little church to be anxious. Paul says, "Don't be."

A. WORRY IS A SIN

Matthew 6:25ff.

? Why is worry a sin?

B. WHAT ABOUT PANIC ATTACKS?

II. PRAY AND ASK ABOUT EVERYTHING

A. PRAY

1 Peter 5:6, 7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

B. ASK

The word is “supplication.”

Supplication

heart-felt petition (request), arising out of deep personal need (sense of lack, want)

III. PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING

A. THE PROPER ATTITUDE OF REQUEST

Most of the time, we say thank you only after we have received something.

? Why does Paul tell us to give thanks while we are making the request rather than after?

B. WHAT THANKSGIVING IN ADVANCE SAYS

1. Thanksgiving Post-Gift

a. the unbeliever's dilemma

Romans 1:21

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

b. the believer's thanksgiving for something received.

Psalms 52:9a

I will give You thanks forever, because You have done it

1 Timothy 4:4

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

1 Corinthians 9:12...15

For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God...Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

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The grand motive for Christian behavior is gratitude for what God has done for us in Christ.

2. Thanksgiving Pre-Gift

? What are we saying about God when we thank God as we request and before He gives?

Thanksgiving according to Psalm 100:

a. is rooted in knowledge of God as Creator and Provider

b. is rooted in knowledge of our dependence on God

- c. shows God's goodness
- d. tells of God's eternal grace
- e. declares God's faithfulness

Isaiah 26:3 ESV

You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.

Peace is not the absence of conflict or the ignoring of conflict, it is the presence of God in all His righteousness.

CONCLUSION: CONCERNED TO THE POINT OF PRAYER

Someone might confide in you that they are worried to the point of despair.

? What makes you anxious?

Rather than worrying to the point of despair, be concerned to the point of prayer.

APPLICATION

Replace worry with thankful prayer and experience a peace that is incomprehensible.

Practice saying thank you to God when you make a request.