

Sermon Title: Want Peace?

Sermon Series: Philipians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philipians 4:6-10

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Do you want _____?

1. Answer small problems with _____ – You can stand firm in Jesus

Philippians 4:1 ESV

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, **stand firm** thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Remember who you are — **You are Christ's**

Remember where you are from — **Citizen of heaven**

Remember how you'll get there — **Jesus' power**

Philippians 4:1 ESV

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

2. Use _____ Truths to Deal with _____

Philippians 4:2-3 ESV

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.

3. Giant Truths allow you to _____ , and be _____

Philippians 4:4-5 ESV

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

Philippians 4:6a ESV

6 do not be **anxious** about anything...

Guilt is fear of the past,

Shame is fear in the present,

Anxiety is fear of the future

4. Giant Truths _____ the Soul to _____

Philippians 4:6 ESV

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

“There are good reasons to worry. The dilemma is that worries tell you to take matters into your own hands, but that message needs to be altered to say ‘what a perfect opportunity to trust the God who is strong, loving, and faithful.’”—Ed Welch – Small Book for the Anxious Heart

Philippians 4:6 ESV

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by **prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

When we pray, we communicate to ourselves that we can't handle what we are anxious about...but God can.

1 Peter 5:7 ESV

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Philippians 4:6 ESV

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests** be made known to God.

“In prayer, you bask in the wonder of what it means that you actually do have a heavenly Father. You find joy in the reality that he has chosen to give you his kingdom. You are blown away by the fact that he unleashes his almighty power to meet your needs. You celebrate forgiving, rescuing, transforming, enabling, and delivering grace. You find joy in your inclusion in his work of redemption. You find hope in the glorious future that is to come. You are amazed by the fact that because Immanuel has invaded your life by his grace, you are never, ever alone. You find peace in the fact that grace means you are never left to the small resources of your own wisdom, righteousness, and strength. You meditate on God's glory and goodness, then celebrate. You rejoice in the fact that you no longer have to look for life in the people, situations, and locations around you, but you've been given life—life that is eternal.”—Paul Tripp – New Morning Mercies

Philippians 4:7 ESV

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The target of the prayer is not peace, the target of the prayer is God. Come to Him with everything and the result is peace.

5. Giant Truths _____ the mind to _____ differently

Philippians 4:8 ESV

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.

“What you give your attention to, shapes you.”—Tyler Staton

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 4:8 ESV

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.

“You see that truck, do you see the shadow of that truck? Would you rather be hit by the truck or the shadow?” And one of his kids said “By the shadow.” Their father concluded, “Because Jesus was hit by the truck of death, your mother only had to go through the shadow of it.”—Donald Grey Barnhouse

“The sting of death is sin, and the poison went into Jesus. And that’s the reason why George Herbert can say death used to be an executioner. But because of the gospel, it’s only a gardener.”—Tim Keller

6. As you _____ Giant Truths, the _____ of _____ is with you

Philippians 4:9 ESV

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.

When Giant Truths of God are _____ through, _____ about, and _____, they result in peace

Discussion Questions

Getting to know you:

1. What do you tend to be anxious about?
2. When you feel anxious or depressed what do you do to feel better?

Into the Bible:

Read Philippians 4:6-9 *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.

3. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, encouraged you, confused you, or bothered you?
4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
5. Why are we not supposed to worry?
6. How does praying bring peace? Is it because God promises to answer our every request or is it something else? (Hint: Why would prayers that bring peace have to be done “with thanksgiving?” When you think about praying, why is it important to remember “the Lord is near?”)
7. Make a list of Giant Gospel Truths that correspond with the words below:
 - I. What is “True”
 - II. What is “Honorable” (worthy of respect or has good character)
 - III. What is “Just” (being put in right relationship with another)
 - IV. What is “Pure” (moral purity, innocent character)
 - V. What is “Lovely” (pleasing or agreeable)
 - VI. What is “Commendable” (worthy of praise or approval)
 - VII. What is “Excellent” (wonderful act, particularly in a person who exhibits moral character)
 - VIII. What is “Praiseworthy”

For Extra Study

Read Matthew 6:25-34 25 “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.

8. From this passage, what Giant Truths does Jesus share about God and us?
9. From the passage, why are we not to “worry” or “be anxious” about anything?
10. What do you find challenging about trusting God?
11. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?
12. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

13. Have you ever experienced the peace of God in a troubled time? If so, how did God help you?
14. What sorts of things occupy your mind? How does your preoccupation with these things affect your relationships? How does it affect your joy in the Lord? How does it affect your peace or your relationship with the God of peace?
15. What about Jesus, his person or work, is most joyful to you? Share with the group. Where have you seen God at work in your life for which you are thankful?
16. What are the concerns you need prayer for right now? Share them with the group and the Lord. What are the things which occupy your mind which you need to give up? What would replace them?
17. Think back to the opening question: When you feel anxious or depressed, what do you do to feel better? What would it look like for you to use prayer and your mind to fight for joy or peace like Paul is describing?