

Guard the Door

Philippians 4:4-9

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.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

In vs. 4 the Apostle Paul's appeal to the Church is to rejoice in every situation and he says it with great emphasis "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"...

- It is easier said than done, but a maturing, growing, follower of Christ is called to rejoice in the Lord in every situation...
- Your Joy is not limited to circumstances...
- Joy is the by product of Rejoicing...
- Rejoicing is something we must choose to do...
- Joy is central theme throughout the book of Philippians...
- Paul writes these words from a prison cell...

1:4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with **joy**

1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and **joy** in the faith,

2:2 then make my **joy** complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my **joy** and crown

He says in **Philippians 4:11-13**

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

“What a gracious God we serve, who makes delight to be a duty, and who commands us to rejoice! Should we not at once be obedient to such a command as this? It is intended that we should be happy.” (Spurgeon)

Then he says in Vs. 5 “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”

Gentleness: *patience, softness or forbearance.*

Also Translated: *mildness, yieldingness, unwillingness to litigate.*

“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”

The word near literally means:

- nigh
- at hand
- near the place and position

This verse could literally be written like this:

PJV

“Let your gentleness, softness and forbearance be obvious to everyone around you because the Lord is standing right next to you.”

In other words, allow your consciousness of God’s to affect your attitude towards God and towards the people around you...

Don’t be like the those who have put God out of their minds...
Or believed that God is somewhere, just not here...

Vs. 6,7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by **prayer and petition** (supplication), **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.

? Does the Bible says do not sweat the small stuff...

The Bible says don't sweat anything...

Be anxious for nothing...

Anxious: worry, unease or nervousness about something with an uncertain outcome.

- Notice this is a command, not an option.
- Undue care is an intrusion into an arena that belongs to God alone.
- It makes us the father instead of the child.

So I have a word of encouragement for you today. Take all that worry, unease or nervousness, package it up and give it to God.

This is how you do it; Go to the place of prayer; Come before the Lord with Thanksgiving and make your request known to him...

Prayer: A place for prayer.

Supplication: a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty to God or to man.

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

Peace: Rest, Quietness, Security, Harmony between individuals.

"Peace is the overwhelming sense of being in God's presence and being right with him" ...

transcends all understanding:

The peace of God bigger than anything this world can offer...

Because of that it transcends...

It transcends this world because it comes from Heaven...

The Gadarene Demoniac in Mark 5
Lived in Caves
Had been bound with Chains and Shakels

Mark 5

5 Always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran up and kneeled before Him,

15 They (the people from the city) came to Jesus and saw him who had been possessed with the legion of demons sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

What the Gadarene Demoniac found that day was a peace the transcends all understanding...

This peach **will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus**: The word **guard** speaks of a military action. This is something that the peace of God does for us; it is a peace that is on **guard** over our heart and mind.

“Shall keep them as in a strong place or a castle.” (Clarke)

- When people seem to “lose” their heart or mind, it often is connected to an absence of the peace of God in their life. The peace of God then does not act as a **guard** for their **hearts and minds**.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**--if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**--**think about such things**.

True: In accordance with fact or reality. Loving the truth, speaking the truth, truthful

Noble: Honest; Honorable of persons, of deeds

Right: Morally Good. Upright, just, righteous

Pure: Not mixed or adulterated with any other substance. Clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect.

Lovely: Acceptable, pleasing; friendly towards.

Admirable: Deserving respect and approval. Good report; sounding well;

Excellent: Extremely good, outstanding. Virtue, praise

Praiseworthy: Deserving approval and admiration

Genesis 4:3-7

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord .

4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"

7 If you **do what is right**, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at your door**; it desires to have you, but **you must master it.**"

What God says to Cain is this:

Cain your thinking is not good...

Cain your attitude is not good...

Cain your wrong attitude will open the door and allow sin to master you...

do what is right (thou doest well): yä·tav'

be glad, be joyful

to be well placed

to make glad, rejoice

to make a thing good or beautiful

happy

make sweet

In other words God was telling Cain:

Rejoice in the Lord always Cain

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything

in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

think about such things.

whatever is true,

whatever is noble

whatever is right

whatever is pure

whatever is lovely

whatever is admirable

if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

And the God of peace will be with you.

And if you don't **sin is crouching at your door**; it desires to have you

- Much of the Christian life comes down to the mind.
- [Romans 12:2](#) speaks of being transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- [2 Corinthians 10:5](#) speaks of the importance of casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
- What we choose to meditate on matters.

What Paul describes here is a practical way to bring *every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*.

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Paul didn't just preach it, Paul was living it...

And the God of peace will be with you...

The God that we serve is a God of Peace...