

Peace of God Through Christ Jesus

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Please go ahead and turn with me to Philippians chapter 4. Philippians chapter 4 verse 6 and 7 this morning. You will if you turn with me to that passage and you're ready may please out of respect for God's word stand follow along in your Bibles as I read from this great passage.

Paul writing to the Philippians, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This is God's word. You may be seated.

I would gather that everyone in this room knows what it feels like to be pulled apart from the inside. We all know what it means to be consumed by worry. The Greek word for careful means to be torn in different directions. Faith pulling in one way and fear pulling in another. The very word for worry is derived from an old English word. It literally means to strangle. To strangle, to suck the life out of the very object.

So when we worry, what do we experience? We experience internal, not external, but internal strangulation. The biblical understanding of this would be in what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 13 verse 22. He's talking about the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches and all those things choke the very words of God. And by choking the words of God, it acts like a thorn. If you know what a thorn is, it literally kills what is good. And what is good? Your spiritual growth. And so the passage ends that when you're choked by the things of the world, deceitfulness or riches, and God's word is choked out. It's like literally the fruit doesn't get to be the end process, which is being fruitful. You become unfruitful. You stay as it were that internal strangulation. There's no life being fed for your growth.

And you know, we allow our circumstances to pull our hearts and minds in completely different directions. This is the default of our soul. We allow ourselves to be pulled in all sorts of directions. Just like weeds, you don't have to do anything. Just let it grow and it will do its work. No concern. Just let it go. You see, faith pulls us one way and fear pulling another way. Another thing is faith can pull you one way and then doubt pulls you another way. Hope pulls you in one direction and then fear pulls you in the opposite. This

is the internal strangulation. God has what is good for your soul and then this part of you says I want this instead. That's the sinfulness of sin. We despise what is good for that which is ugly.

It is easy for someone who is untroubled by his soul, untroubled by the advice that is given to a suffering heart. But we must consider what this passage is speaking. It is spoken by the apostle Paul. It's not a person that is living for the things of this world. This is a man that is living for God and is allowing God's word to bear fruit in his life. We must listen. Amen. We must listen because something is going on right now internally. You are being pulled in all sorts of directions. I have no idea the spiritual state of everyone in this room. But you know what? God does. God does. And if you allow God's word to penetrate as it were a laser to your worry and you allow that laser to do what it's supposed to do, which is God's word to bear fruit in your life, I want and Paul wants the desire that you end with peace that surpasses all human understanding that's found only in the person of Christ Jesus. Only in Christ Jesus. Let me repeat that. Only in Christ Jesus. No one else. No thing, no person, no object, nothing.

So we consider then this commandment given to us in Philippians 4:6 to be careful for nothing. I just want to have you just think deeply on just this part of this passage. Don't skip this passage. This part of the passage. Let's examine it together. Well, the Apostle Paul wrote these words. He was awaiting a trial that could very well end in his death. But he knew there was death coming at some point in his life. His future, and let's just focus on his external circumstances, was entirely dark, was entirely uncertain. Yet in the deepest crisis of his life, he cheerfully told his brethren to be anxious for nothing. That is not shallow advice that is shouted as it were from a mountaintop experience and saying, "Oh, it's easy. This is easy. Be careful for nothing." No, he's going to say, "It's literally impossible."

If you just take this part of the passage, he is giving spirit inspired truth from the middle of his own storm. Get that? He's in the storm and you're in a storm and he's giving you advice. Whose advice are you going to listen to? The one that is outside of the storm and not experiencing anything and can say something like this. Be careful nothing. Look, my life is fine. Your life should be fine and has no concern of what the person's going through. Absolutely no. This is the Apostle Paul. He knows what is going on with the Philippians. And God connected the two that only he can do. A thousand miles plus apart. This message could have possibly not been received by the Philippians. God made the way. And God is making the way right now at this moment. This is a true pastor's heart. He's in the middle of the storm with you.

So why do we need this message today? Why is it so important for us today and for tomorrow and for the next week and for the next month to the next however many years

God gives you on this earth. It's relevant for every part of that. Because God is far more concerned with what is happening within you than what is happening around you. He is far more concerned what is happening within you than he cares about what is happening around you. That's the point here. He wants to offer you an exchange that is beyond what the world can offer. And what is that? Namely in Christ Jesus.

So let's dive into verse six. This phrase then says be careful. It means exactly what it sounds like. It means to be full of care. I can imagine everyone in this room has full of care. God is concerned. He wants to take care of this. So he says, "Think about this. Be careful for nothing." It literally refers to the knowing anxiety that tears the heart apart and renders a person incapable of doing the wise thing. There is something that must be made that is a wise decision in your life and he's saying in order to make that wise decision you've got to take care of this anxiety issue first. God is not telling us to be irresponsible in this passage. He's not also telling you to ignore the very real problems in our lives. That's not the idea. It's not the ostrich burying his head in the sand as it were. What is he talking about? He's saying stop letting your problems strangle your progress.

He said when you bury your head as it were in the sand, you are not progressing at all. You are as it were stopping your progress in life. He's saying if you don't take care of this anxiety issue, there is no progress in your life, in your spiritual life. This is massive. This is massive for the Christian. And that's why it's a command. It's not a shallow advice here. Just do this. No, it's a command. You must do this. You must do this or else you're not going to grow in the Lord. You're not. That's what the grammar is. The way this verb is used is and the way it's structured in the original language, it literally says in its meaning, it forbids an action that is already happening. So, get this. You're thinking about a concern. And he's saying literally, don't think of that problem first. What do we do? We go to the problem first, don't we? That's what our sinful nature does. Let me take care of it. That's what you're saying. But this is a command. Don't go first to the problem. Don't go first to the situation at hand. God is not just saying don't be anxious. That's not what the text is implying. It's saying literally, stop being anxious. Be careful for nothing.

What are then the things we can care about? Let me just list them down for you. Here's the first care. Family, finances, health, your future, your relationships, some here ministry burdens and then on camps uncertainties we can't control all those things I listed you have actually no real control. McLaren says this don't be anxious without giving them a reason is as useless as telling a ship in a storm not to rise and fall with the waves you can't control the waves that's the idea so you have no control over the trajectory of your life. And the point is this. God never commands without supplying grace. That's why he's saying, "I'm going to supply that, but you must come to me first for that supply. Don't go empty-handed to that problem." That's what the word supplication means. It means, you see it within that supply. Supplication to supply a need for those things as all aspects of

their lives. He supplies all of our needs because anxiety is not a small issue. It is a spiritual issue. It's a sin issue. Anxiety is a sin issue.

Christians, we speak the truth. Many people say anxiety is a thing you can deal with at a therapy. Somehow you can fix yourself. No. I said in a sermon before, repent. You need repentance. You cannot fix this yourself. You need someone to fix it for you. And it's not you. It's not anyone in this world except for Christ. He can only deal with the sin issue. So this is a big deal. This is why it's a command. The root of the issue. When we fret and worry, we are ultimately demonstrating a lack of trust in God's wisdom, sovereignty, and power. We're saying, "I don't trust you. I don't trust you in my family. I don't trust you in my finances. I don't trust you in my health, my relationships, all uncertainties that are outside of my control." We must deal with that. We must take care of the root issue here because you cannot take out the root if you don't know what the root issue is. God wants to examine what the root issue is. Because worry is not simply an emotion. The world tells you it's an emotion. You've been traumatized. You have a problem that you need to go back and deal with. You need to talk about it. You need to talk your way to health. And that person's not probably even listening to you really. You see, it's not an emotional issue. It's a rival of trust. That's what it is. Do you trust that you can take care of this problem or God can take care of this problem? That's where the spiritual crossroads lies.

And when a command is given, he says you go this way or you go that way. That's what wisdom is. There's only two paths from this point on. And it's what happens when our minds meditate on our problems instead of our God. But here is the good news. So I gave you the bad news of sin. Here's the good news. There is good news. God does not tell you to stop worrying and leave you hanging. He tells you to stop worrying by turning to him. Turn away from your sin to him. You see, it didn't just happen in our salvation when we were justified by faith alone, by Christ alone, by grace alone. It was continual process of doing that. We just took the direction that led us to understand there's another path. Amen. Where most people still think there's only this path that I have. We've been enlightened by the Holy Spirit. We know there's another path. And that's what Paul's going to do here. He's going to go, "This is how the world is with them. They're caring about all these things and they're trying to deal with themselves." And then Apostle Paul goes, he shifts it and goes, "But you Christian, this is your hope." He is whom that you can trust with your life.

Because if we don't see the worthlessness of worry, if you don't see the worthlessness of sin, worrying is aching to as it were your on the stationary bike and you think you're getting somewhere. You think it's a real bike that's getting you and there's progress in your life, but you're just spinning and spinning, exerting energy after energy, and it leads to nothing. Sin leads to nothing. Sin leads to death. Absolutely. There's it's worthless. We need to obviously see that. And God has shown us that. You see, God cares about our

destination. And he's saying, "You're not getting anywhere. You think you're getting somewhere, but you're not going to get to your destination without me. You are not." So he commands it. Wake up. Wake up. You can't get anywhere in this life. You think you are. That's how deceptive sin is. Thinking that the pleasures you got something good out of it. No, you got nothing out of it. You got death and death again and again and again. Death leaves no growth. Right? You can't a dead person cannot grow anymore. Everything of that person's life is done. That's what we saw in our funeral service. Our old life is a funeral service. We are dead. Pastor Tim's life is dead. My life is in Christ Jesus. That's what Christian means. I'm in Christ. I'm in Christ. I'm not in my work. That's not my life, my family, my health, my relationships, none of it. It's only in Christ. Only in Christ. And that's where every brother and sister in Christ. That's why we can say brothers in Christ. Amen. We ought to preach that over again. My brother in Christ. My sister in Christ. We're in Christ. Let us be at peace.

You see, you're faced again as with a clear spiritual crossroad. And we see this as brothers and sisters in Christ. The refusal to make everything a matter of prayer leads to being overwhelmed by anxiety regarding the majority of your life. What would you want? To be overwhelmed with anxiety or to be overwhelmed with God's presence? By accepting the invitation. That's what grace is. Grace is always an invitation, a gift. His hands are open. He wants to supply your very need. And he invites us over and over again. He is a throne of grace that may obtain mercy to find grace to help in time of need. All of our needs. And so God wants us to our souls, our own lives to entrust him with all of our burdens. One remains anchored in the sovereign grace intended for ultimate good and the other holds on to this life that leads to ultimate bad, nothing good. So that's the first part of verse six.

Now let's jump in now to the spiritual crossroad that leads us to the path for all Christians says, "But in everything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." What here Paul tells us to do is three words. Look at them. First, it's prayer. That's communion with God. Second, supplication, bringing our needs to God. And third, thanksgiving, trusting God before the answer comes. Did you catch that? Before the answer comes. The only way to make the impossible command of be careful for nothing a reality to embrace the practice of pray about everything. That's the imperative, the command. You must take everything off of those things that you have full of care and turn it into prayer. There must be a one to one. Don't let any of your worries slip without praying for it. Why is priority answered here? Because the heart is never empty. The heart is never empty. It is not filled. If it's not filled with God, it will be filled with worry. So if there is any worry right now, it's because you are allowing yourself to be filled with it. Only God is the one that he commands us to be filled with. That's what prayer is. As soon as you open your mouth, as it were, you're asking God, fill my heart with your presence. Because prayer is not informing God. A lot

of us do that, don't we? Lord, Lord, take care of this need. Take care of this that need. Lord, Lord, please, if you don't do this, then I don't know what I'm going to do. It's informing that's a lot of our misalignments. Instead, this passage is saying I need your presence. How many of us do we pray that first? Lord, I need your presence in this need because I keep focusing on this problem and I don't focus on you. You see that it is not a human effort that he wants out of us. It is him entering into our lives. That's a relationship, isn't it?

It's not telling it would be silly for my relationship, my wife and I just tell her what to do and I never tell her I love you. I never tell her I don't want to I want to be with you. I don't want to spend time with you. What kind of relationship is that? And yet many of us do that in our prayers. One commentary puts it, prayer may not change your circumstances, but it will change you. It will. Prayer will change you. You see, nothing is too big for him. This is how crazy our minds work. One woman asked if she should pray about the little things in her life. And this pastor said, "Can you mention anything in your life that is too big for God?" See, we think this is a big problem and this is a little problem and this is a big problem and this is a little problem. Is really anything big for God? Is anything too big for our God? So really everything is little to God. So what does that mean then? He cares about the small details of your life, not what we think of big and small. So what does that do? You don't examine those prayers based on big and small. You just present all of it. Whatever worry comes in, don't examine if it's a big or small problem. Just pray it away. Just pray it away. And watch what happens in your life. You see, we examine too much of our prayers, don't we? And we don't just allow the Holy Spirit to give us the utterance that's deep within. See, this Holy Spirit is not shallow. That's why he can go through the utterances. That's the deepness, the real root problem. Holy Spirit deals with the root problem. That's why he convicts us of sin of righteousness and judgment. Those are not shallow things. So nothing is too big for God. Whatever your burden is, God can handle it. He can handle all of your worries. There is no detail too small for God to care about. For God, nothing really means nothing. And everything really means everything. No details is insignificant to God. Our lives are essentially a collection of small moments and minor details. If you think of like a mountaintop, that mountaintop is like our lives. It's built one thing at a time. In the end, it looks big, but it was over series of small moments. If we fail to seek God's assistance in these smaller matters, we effectively exclude him in all the major things of life. Because all major things happen in small increments, don't they? Jesus said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful in that which is much. He that is unfaithful in that which is least, he shall be faithful in that which is much." The little things build up to the big things. Ultimately, if your matter is significant enough to affect you, to worry you essentially is significant to God.

And then he says, "With thanksgiving," which is an essential component of prayer. Let me break this one down because thanksgiving is trust in God's heart before you seek God's hand. Thanksgiving is trust in God's heart before you see God's hand. Paul tells us to bring our request with thanksgiving or giving thanks literally right then and there in your request. Thanksgiving is not a response to answered prayer. It is the heart posture that knows God is ultimately good in his response. Gratitude is to characterize the very act of prayer itself. Why you say because a single sorrow can obscure many of his mercies that was given before that little speck. We always so much caught up with the little specks that obscure what God does overall in our lives. You see, thanksgiving reorients our focus towards the father's benevolence. It reorients us to his character. That's what that means. Are you trusting in his character? Are you trusting that all perfect gift comes from above? All good things come above. That's his character. It never changes. He will always give what is good. Again, it's an emotional thing. You may not feel good about it, but he knows ultimately what is our good. Often we're like as it were we only see one sliver of our life and this is our problem is again we always focus on the details in our lives that are not really that important to God. He cares about all aspects of our lives not just one aspect of our lives. As soon as we get caught up in just one thing in our life, for example, many of us in this room may be in seasons where you're going through family things and you have to put aside financial concerns or you might be dealing again with a health issue and that's absorbing all of your attention and now you can't think about your relationships. This is always happening. We're being pulled in every direction and we're going, "Lord, I can't handle all of this." Amen. I hope that brings a relief because if you were to do so, you'll never do everything right. But with his presence, all things will be made right for his ultimate good. For his ultimate good. And so that's why he wants to have you trust in his character. He knows the end from the beginning and everything in between. And that heart of gratitude is essential before the answer arrives because when you do that, you're resting in the certainty that he will respond through his grace no matter what the outcome may be. So instead of fixating on the outcome, Lord, I want to be healthy. I want to be full of health. I want to have my finances all perfect. Instead of focusing on that, you say, you are the one I want to be with. You are the one Lord that can supply what my soul needs, what my heart needs ultimately. Those things, they will never fulfill what my soul needs. Do you see that? You do that with all areas of your life, this command begins to make a lot more sense. Becomes more clear. Your burdens are lifted. You are at rest. And you begin to see things the way God sees, right? That's what confession is, is that you're aligning to God. Lord, I am fixating too much on these things. Lord, I confess. I want to align to your will and purpose. That's what confession is. Constantly aligning to his will and his purpose that this is good for us. And then you see him, how the way he takes care of the outcome and then you can still be thankful whether you think of it as a bad outcome or a good outcome. That's not your business. We thought we had it all right when we Genesis took the apple that we can

suddenly know what good and evil is too. Are you kidding me? That's the deception of sin that Satan puts into our minds that we suddenly know what is good and bad for us. When ultimately no only God knows what is good and bad because soon as sin entered into our hearts everything is chaotic. Everything is chaotic you think Cain thought that he was doing something bad thought he was doing something good I murdered my brother what's the big deal and then on and on sin kills Not just physically, but spiritually. That's what we need to take in.

Now, let's go to verse seven. Here's the promise. Here's the promise. When you fulfill the command of verse six, and the peace of God, which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Notice the text. And the text shall. That is a promise. That is a promise. When you take your worries to God and believe in prayer, God hears, he knows, he cares, and he answers in that process. But here is the profound truth that we must grasp in this part of the text. He may not respond the way you want him to. He may not respond the way you want him to. What God promises here does not promise he will fix everything around you. That's not what this text means. But that he will guard everything within you, your heart and your mind. I want to touch on this. God's peace becomes like it were a military fortress. Okay, picture that. A military fortress, a fortification. And what is he fortifying? Your heart and your mind. God's peace then is a divine peace that takes upon itself a warlike function. This is a warlike part of this passage. This word guard to keep. It's a warlike function. That's like a fortification of your heart and mind. So why is this then this peace so important? Because God's peace is not your peace. God's peace is not your peace. We have a misunderstanding of peace. This is another area we need help in. We need God's peace. We need God's peace. Not peace from circumstances. Not peace from our personalities. Not peace from thinking positive. Not peace that I can escape the situation. No, but the very peace God himself possesses. It's having his peace on us. It's the nature of this peace. It transcends human intellect. It transcends our analytical ability to know what is good and what is bad. And it gives us spiritual insight that so profound that brings inner calm within the storm within the soul despite of the storm. The believer rests then in the unwavering confidence that God will do what is best for his children. The function of this peace then is the word keep is again that military term. It means to keep watch over. He is the one that's watching over no longer us. We're trusting him that what he is watching over is the right way to watch over things. Think of it. God never sleeps and his strength never ceases. Anyone in this room can say that you never sleep that your strength never ceases. That's why we want him to watch as it were the guard, the fortification. He knows every enemy, everything that can pull our hearts to the thing that will destroy us.

So why this peace is better than answered prayer? Your answered prayer. Have your circumstances changed after you pray? You might not necessarily. You may still find yourself standing in a war zone with the battle raging and the enemy advancing. The

storm may still be raging, the waves rolling high and the thunder resounding. But while the storm has not subsided, something fundamentally changes at the heart that happens deep within the human soul. God dispatches his own peace in the center of your heart and your soul. No person can go there except for him. God dispatches his own peace and as a laser focus hits your heart and your soul. And what he does is he gives you what you ask. He gives you his own peace. That is much better than your answered prayer. See how this surpasses understanding, doesn't it? Because God's goal is not to change your situation. Is to change you again. It is to change you. Because peace is not the absence of storms. It is the presence of Christ. Right? So the peace is in Christ Jesus. This is the way the text ends. And what does this mean for us brothers and sisters in Christ? Peace is not a formula that if you do this, this will happen. That's not how prayer works. Peace is not also a mindset. Peace is ultimately an abound in a person. Peace is found in a person. Trust is peace. Trust is peace. The condition of the human heart is that we shall be in Christ. That we shall be in Christ. Why only Christ can give this peace? Because he's the one that can only carry your sins. He's the only one that conquered death. He's the only one that reigns over your circumstances. He is the only one that can truly intercede for you. He is the only one that actually holds your future. He is the only one that loves you with an everlasting love. See, God is more concerned about what is going on within your soul than what is going around you. And why is this peace unshakable? Why can you have this peace that surpasses all understanding? Why can you be stable through all of the storm? Because Christ himself is unshakable. That's why the person is the peace. That's why we are built on the rock which is Christ and all other ground is sinking sand as the song puts it. Where are you shifting this morning towards family towards health to relationships unforeseen circumstances that are outside your control? Where are you being pulled this morning? Because God doesn't want you to be like that. He wants you to be on the solid ground that does not change. He wants you there. A life lived without Christ is a life without peace. Get that? Without him, you might find excitement. That doesn't bring you peace. There's plenty of temporary pleasures. That doesn't bring you peace. Or even success in your work, in your marriage, in your relationships doesn't bring you peace. You'll never find true peace in those things. They're all moving. The Christless heart is like the troubled sea that simply cannot rest. Just a wave, never gives rest. But you have a father who invites you to trade your anxieties that is strangling you. Remember that that surpasses all understanding which is his grace. His grace is beyond human understanding, isn't it? Why would he give us his son? While we're yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. We didn't have to do anything. So right now, wherever you're at, God can take care of that. He can take care of it. Not only our salvation, but all through life. He's saying, "I got this. I got this." You got a very heavy burden right now. Give it to him. Give it to him. And that's the burdens of this world that we are all faced with, brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all faced with this world's burdens, aren't we? And that's what this passage is talking about. He's not talking about our salvation. He's

talking about our life circumstances. He's saying, "Yeah, give that to me, too. Go to me first. Don't go to the problem first." That's what surpasses all understanding that you can trust that he'll take care of you for what is your ultimate good. See, God intimately is aware of everything that's going on. He never sleeps. His strength continues to be unlimited. He cares deeply about your situation and he is actively at work on your behalf. Get that. He is actively involved in your life. He is. If you're not praying, Jesus is praying for you right now. He continues to pray for us. He never leaves us nor forsakes us in prayer. And we look to him. He satisfies our soul. That trust of him as not only savior but lord, the lord that commands for us to hear him. He is our friend. He wants us to grow. He wants us to be experiencing his love that surpasses all understanding as well. And if you'll just simply accept his commands and his providence in our lives, his very presence will keep you in perfect peace. Right? And Isaiah 24 says that I will be in his perfect peace. He is the only one that can give us perfect peace because he is the only one that can again carry all of your burdens. All of your burdens that you can be left with none of your burdens. And that you will pray by casting all of your cares because he cares for you. He cares for all your cares in your life. And so if you will trust him in that way and receive constant grace in your life, he will make sure that your heart is guarded today, tomorrow, the weeks ahead. Christ wants to experience a lighter load. He wants you to experience his strength. And he wants you to experience deeper trust. And when you do that, when you experience that in your life, you will experience he is enough. Amen. He is enough.

Now I want to speak with those that are outside of Christ that are not in Christ. It is essential to distinguish, look with me in the text, the word peace of God. It is not the same as peace with God. You see that peace of God is speaking to people in Christ. But I speak to you that are outside of Christ. You need peace with God first. You need peace with God first. You see, peace with God is attained through the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that he can save you from your sins. All of them because he did it on the cross. He said, "It is finished. It is finished. The death blow has been taken care of. You don't have to die in your sins. Christ died for you in your place. It's the only way you can have peace with God. He provided that opportunity for you. He is the one that can ultimately reconcile you to God the Father. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." In contrast, the peace of God reflects his own nature as the one who transcends all situations. This is the same peace the Lord Jesus maintained amidst his trials, which he specifically identified as my peace. John 14:27 puts it this way. Jesus saying, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth. Give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Colossians 3:15. This is where I'm going to end. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also you're called in one body. Be thankful. Will you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ in this way that you will stop ruling over your own heart and

allow him to rule over your life? Because when you do, all things become well. Let us pray.

Father, we can find through the midst of our circumstances that the peace of God surpasses all understanding which is found in Christ Jesus. We thank you. We thank you for all the circumstances that we're in. We do thank you for our family, for our health. We thank you for the finances you give to us, the relationships that you bound us with in the family of God. We thank you for all these things. But ultimately, Father, we know we have no control over these matters. And we thank you for that, Lord, that we go to you first for help, that we could find grace and obtain mercy from you, which ultimately traces back to your throne of grace. Thank you, Father, for the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. Thank you for ability to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and our sanctification. And thank you for ultimate glorification that one day we will see Jesus face to face and be like him. Thank you for that, Lord. And I thank you that we have people here that are unbelievers that got to sit under this preaching. Lord, not the words that I had, but the words of your scriptures. I pray they would penetrate their hearts and that the word would become real to them by the power of the Holy Spirit that he is the one that brings unbelievers to Christ. I pray that you would do that this morning. Bless us to this end, Father, for Lord, we are so at need in all these things from salvation to our ongoing sanctification. Bless us, Father, to be constantly being overwhelmed by your presence instead of our worries. And we'll thank you in Jesus name. Amen.