

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Philippians 4:1-9

Outline

- I. Where we end up.
 - A. *The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started.* – TS Elliot
 1. The main theme of Philippians = Joy.
 - B. The connection between joy and peace.
 1. Stability.
 - a. *“If a vessel wants to navigate a highly unstable environment, it has to have strong stabilizers within.”*
 - b. The apostle Paul—the great example of stability in a highly unstable environment (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).
- II. The apostle Paul’s stabilizers.
 - A. Centered his life on the eternal (Verse 1).
 1. Paul’s joy was seeing the people he loved, the church at Philippi standing firm in the Lord, the fruit of his ministry.
 - B. The secret to the Christian life—STAND FIRM.
 - C. Live in the divine principles of life rather than the methods for living.
 1. Don’t treat the symptoms, deal with the disease.
 2. Live in the divine cosmic—*there is a God, man is depraved, man is out of fellowship with God, there is a heaven and there is a hell, we all live on in eternity, man needs a Savior, God sends His Son to be our Savior, through Christ we can be forgiven for our sins, we can live in eternity with Him in heaven, all things new!...etc....etc....etc....etc.*
 - a. Anything less is temporary and always in flux.
 - D. An enemy of stability—Broken relationships within the body of Christ—the church (Verses 2-3 Euodia and Syntyche).
 - E. Joy and Peace—true stability.
 1. The peace of God is an inner calm.
 2. True lasting peace comes from the presence of something (someone).
 - a. One who “guards” your heart and mind.

F. The peace of God—How do we get it?

1. Thanking (Verse 6).

a. Thank God in your prayers BEFORE He gives you the answer!

You and I will never be content until we can rest in God's answers to our prayers regardless of His answer.

b. Example—Jonah 2: 1-10

2. Thinking (Verse 8).

a. Think on these things: Godly virtues – doctrine!

-- Results? (Verse 7) the peace of God that surpasses ALL comprehension.

b. *Stupid Peace* is blocking out the mind... Don't think!

Smart Peace is engage in the mind of Christ... (T. Keller).

c. God's peace is not about blocking out thoughts, not thinking about things, it is about thinking on the doctrines of God's virtues.

-- "Consider these things" = to dwell on, to meditate on.

G. Its more than the mind, it is also the heart (Verse 7b).

1. Your heart grows in Jesus when you have a relationship with Him.

**But the wicked are like the tossing sea
For it cannot be quiet
And its waters toss up refuse and mud
"There is no peace" says my God, "for the wicked"**

Isaiah 57:20-21

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Philippians 4:1-9

Sermon Notes

We are at the end of our exploring this wonderful book of Philippians.... We're beginning the final chapter...chapter four this morning... possibly completing it next week... I hope this has been a good journey for you... it certainly has challenged me....T.S. Elliot famously said:

The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started.

Not implying we didn't get anywhere but rather... the truth we began with is the truth we end with but hopefully changed our lives during the journey..... we began Philippians by seeing that the main theme of the book... the main message of the book is about joy and how you get it...

Philippians is arguably the most joyful book of the Bible... out of the 104 verses that make up this short letter... 16 of them contain the word "joy" or "rejoice"

We differentiated between joy and happiness.... Happiness is wonderful but it is generally a fleeting condition... based on circumstances... based on "hap-pen-ings".... When your happenings are good... going well... happiness can be the bye-product... but when things go wrong... when great disappointment and difficulties come into your life... happiness takes a vacation.

But not so with joy...true joy is not related to circumstances in any way...*joy is a deep down confidence that all is well.... No matter what is going on in your life...* Joy is the result of setting your life on to Jesus Christ... living for Him and for His glory... that's where we began.... And now....at the end we go back to the beginning...

In chapter four... the end of the letter... Paul breaks out in verse 4 with **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!...** to rejoice is to feel and express the joy that is within you...

And linked to that joy is verse 7... **and the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus...**

So the Christian life is to be characterized by having great joy and peace in our lives... and we want that don't we?... so... the apostle Paul gives us chapter four to solidify this joy and peace in our lives... these first nine verses reveals to us just how to make this a reality in our lives... let's read them together:

Read Philippians 4:1-9

As I wrestled with these verses this week... I realized they all had something in common... they all have one overlying characteristic woven through these words... and that could be summed up as stability...In fact... I concluded that in order to have true joy and true peace in your life... there must be stability in your life.

I would say that the reason the world is so joyless and so without peace.... Just look around... it is from a lack of stability... I don't think I am exaggerating when I say everything seems to be unstable right now...

The economy certainly isn't stable... our political process certainly isn't stable... our food supply seems out of whack... I guess baby formula is scarce... suicide rates flying high... viruses an ongoing threat and reality... I could go on and on with all the instability in the world today but I want to be more positive this morning..... not positive that the world is a disaster but rather positive as in there's good news in all of it.

There's an axiom in the nautical world... *"If a vessel wants to navigate a highly unstable environment, it has to have strong stabilizers within"*...I've been in more airplanes than ships... and I've been in more turbulence in air than storms on the sea...Most of you can tell stories about the time you flew in turbulence...

I'll spare you my stories but one thing I do when I fly is I keep an eye on the stabilizers of the aircraft...All I can usually see are the engines and wings... but the rear of the aircraft is where the stabilizers are...

That vertical fin is what keeps the plane from going left to right.... The horizontal fin is what keeps you from bobbing up and down... the more the turbulence the more important those stabilizers are.

Like ships and planes... we need stabilizers while navigating through turbulent environments such as our culture... our world. We tend to spend much of our time criticizing and complaining about the condition of the world... but as far our problem goes... it may be a lack of stabilizers...

Let me give you another picture... Morro Bay is on the Central Coast of California... Morro Bay is marked by a this 541 foot "volcanic plug" known as Morrow rock... this edifice along with a very long rock jetty separates a very violent ocean with a quiet safe harbor....

Earlier this year we walked out to the rock jetty at the base of the rock and watched as the most violent sea that I've ever seen pound against the jetty... It's truly amazing... waves 25 to 30 feet high crash onto the rocks making their way over the Jetty some 35 feet across....

The waves pound against the rocks relentlessly 24 hours a day.... As I sat and watched for an hour or so... I was amazed that these large boulders survived the constant pounding.... A massive set of waves would come in and engulf the rocks..... and I was certain the rocks wouldn't be there when the waves subsided.... But they were!

That's stability... We've seen by now that the apostle Paul was like that... wave after wave of life pounding away at him.... yet as the waves subside he's still standing.... Paul was a rock... Paul had strong stabilizers in his life...and he tells us to **follow his example** back in chapter 3:17

Listen to this from 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 in case you thought that the apostle lived a cushy life..

I am speaking as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent adrift at sea. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers;(I think the operative word here is danger!) 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches...

Waves are pounding on Paul in his life...

But now he says **Rejoice in the Lord; again I say rejoice**..... so let's look at Paul's stabilizers:

Look at verse 1 again:

Therefore my brothers, loved and longed for, my joy and crown... Paul received much joy from the church at Philippi... this is a pastor who loves his people... he loves the common thread that runs through all of them and binds them all together.... The gospel of Jesus Christ....

He says something similar to the church at Thessalonica... **For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you... in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy**...(1 Thess. 2:19-20)

Bear with me... what we are starting to see is the essence of joy (and peace)... I hope to unveil all that this morning... the first thing for us to see is that for the apostle... he got major joy from something outside of his circumstances.... Outside of any possession.... Outside of position and status... he got joy from this relationship with the people he loved and **their** walk with the Lord...

When he says these people are **his crown**... he's not talking about a royal crown... he's referring to the laurel wreath that was given to the victors of an athletic event... you win a foot race and you would be awarded a crown... a wreath of tree limbs and leaves...

Now think about this... the Philippians **are the wreath**..... the crown...**My brothers... my joy and my crown**... who's the victor?...who's the one who is winning the race...it's Paul!.... The Philippians were Paul's trophy...Paul's wreath of honor... they were the proof of his dedication to the furthering of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Want joy in your life?... **center your life on the eternal**...verse 1 ends with **Therefore my brothers, loved and longed for, my joy and crown... in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.... STAND FIRM.**

Stand firm.... Stand fast... "*I'm going to show you how to be a rock*"...

What I realized as I worked down these 9 verses... is a vital overarching principle key to the Christian life... it is a principle that is in 180 degree contrast with how the world operates... I think all people are chasing after lives to be filled with joy and peace... the Christian and non-Christian alike... but the manner in which we seek them is diametrically opposite.

I think this is big so before I go on I want to lay it out.

Different theologians have called it different things.... Timothy Keller years ago, back in the 90's called the principle "*Using cosmic truths on mundane circumstances*"... Commentator John Kitchen, *All of life in context of the Almighty*.... someone else calls it *Using big truth in little places*... we could call it *Ultimate principles the basis for daily living*.

Basically the difference is... for the Christian... we live (or should live) life based on the larger principles.... The world lives life with *methods*... take for example anxiety.... How to deal with anxiety... verse 6 says **be anxious for nothing**... and everyone in the world desires that...

But the world goes immediately to methods.... "*here's some relaxation techniques*".... "*Try yoga*".... "*Exercise*"... "*watch your diet*".... "*Get some new friends*"... "*take this medication*"... those are all "methods" of dealing with anxiety.

It's treating the symptoms and ignoring the cause... treating the symptoms not the disease...

You never turn on a secular You Tube or read a bestseller book on anxiety and it begins..."Anxiety in your life?"..... "Step one.... Think about the big questions in life.... *What happens when you die?... Is there a God?...Is there a judgement day?.... is there a heaven and hell?.... are there moral absolutes by which we are to live our lives*....

You never read or hear anything like that... it's "*maybe take a vacation for three weeks in the Bahamas*..." The world never starts out with the big things...never addresses the big picture.... But the Bible always does.... And Paul does that here.....

Therefore my brothers, loved and longed for, my joy and crown... *in this way* stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.... STAND FIRM.... This verse is pointing back to the big picture... we are to stand firm not by some method....*stand firm?*... "*bend your knees a little*"... but by a huge principle... what's the principle?.....

Therefore and In this way are pointing back to verse 20 of the previous chapter... chapter three... **For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.... Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by His working through which He is able to even subject all things to Himself....**

Paul is showing us to live life as a rock... stable... we don't need to look for all the methods.... what we need to do is look at all the divine cosmic reality!... Being citizens of heaven.... and Jesus is able to control EVERYTHING including the transforming of our pathetic bodies into glorious new bodies for eternity.

When you center your life on the big picture... *the absolute truth that there is a God... man is depraved existing in a broken relationship with the creator... in need of a Savior.... Loving God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be that Savior... and if you accept Jesus His Son as your Lord and Savior... you will spend eternity in heaven.... all things new and perfect and glorious...your purpose in life is to glorify God....* If you center your life on that truth... that rock... you can stand through anything the world throws at you...

So you see.. throughout this passage... Paul shows us stability and it is all based on the highest truth.... The greatest principles.... *Be anxious for nothing....* How?... bring God into it...*Have joy in your life...* How?... rejoice IN THE LORD...*Have peace in your life...* How?...Get the peace of God available through His Son Jesus Christ.....

How should we navigate through life?..... in the context of the BIG PICTURE (summed up as the Gospel of Jesus Christ!)... why do that?... because it is the ONLY thing that lasts.... **The only thing that is truly stable**... the only thing that can withstand the waves continually crashing....

EVERYTHING else is temporary... everything else is in flux.... Nothing else lasts... there is no happiness that lasts... no other love that lasts.... No marriage lasts.... Someone dies..... our bodies don't last... our strength diminishes after a certain age

Yoga.... That might make you relax... relieve some tension..... but you're not always going to be able to yoga... there is coming a time when tying your shoes is an achievement!...There comes a time when getting in the Lotus position is out of the question!

But Paul says... *"there's a person who will make all things new!" ... there's a place not just where love, joy, and strength lasts... but everything is eternally new!...* the world is nothing but a blip in the universe... it is all temporary... all decaying... want stability?... live in the context of eternity...of Jesus Christ....

Those who had joy and peace during the last two years of Covid are those whose life was secured on the rock....

One enemy to stability within the church and with each of us personally is broken relationships with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ...

Read verse 2

Not too much time on this... I addressed broken fellowship among believers back in chapter 2.

Broken relationships within the church body are unacceptable to God... we looked at the church as a body... a body comprised of connecting parts... and when a part is hurting the entire body hurts.... When there is a broken relationship within the church, everyone is affected by it.

Two ladies... Euodia and Syntyche have had some riff between them and it's severe enough for word to reach Paul in Rome....We don't know anything about these two women except what we read here.....

How would you like to be mentioned in the greatest book ever written.. and the only thing said about you is that you and a fellow Christian are quarreling with each other.... To go down in infamy as a quarreler.

The apostle admonishes them to “**think the same way**”..... in other words... not be divided.... It points back to 2:1-3

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves;

Think about what broken relationships do to the body..... the two ladies have an ongoing fight That means their husbands can't talk to each other... their kids can't play with each other... everyone has to be careful what they say around them... Euodia's sister always picked up Syntyche's kids for AWANA now she doesn't want to get in the middle...Syntyche has to find a new Sunday School class that Euodia doesn't attend...

All this is UNSTABLE! ... and the entire church body becomes.... Unstable.

Apparently the riff was so bad Paul had to enlist the entire church to “help these women”... someone said *there are times when four hands aren't enough.*

Let's think about joy and peace.... **Rejoice in the Lord always again I say rejoice....be anxious for nothing**....the opposite of joy is sadness, despair, grief.... The opposite of peace is anxiety..... the antidote is **the peace of God**....what is the peace of God?

1. The peace of God is an inner calm... God's peace is having an inner calm regardless of what is going on... regardless of the circumstances.... Verse 11 says that the apostle Paul had learned to be content in all circumstances...

It doesn't matter what is going on around me....at me.... to me.... I have learned to be content....
A good word would be having “equilibrium”..... by definition equilibrium is the state where two opposing forces or influences are balanced.... They're not upturning the apple cart...

For this to be true we need the next one:

2. Peace comes from the presence of something (someone).

Paul... in prison... chained to a prison guard 24/7... awaiting a death sentence... and he said... *I have joy and peace in my life!*.... why?... because he's a tough cookie?... He's learned to suck it up?... He's learned mind control?....

No Paul says “*I learned it*”.... **I learned to be content in whatever circumstance**...in other words... it didn't come natural to Paul..... more of that next week.... But here's the important

thing.... Paul knows that the peace doesn't come from himself..... it is not a method... it is not a positive mental attitude....

It is a person.... It is the **peace of God** (7)... the inner calm comes from a peace that comes from being protected... see the word "guard"?.... **and the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension SHALL GUARD your hearts.... And your minds....**

Guard... a military term... it means to have an army surround the city to protect it from an invasion... if you're inside the city and you know you have an entire army surrounding the city to guard you.... You can sleep at night....

Again.... To have peace.... To have an inner calm in all circumstances.... We don't run to methods... we embrace a comic truth.... *Using cosmic truths on mundane circumstances...* usually when people give advice on how to be calm...

They say things like "*don't think negative thoughts....don't think of bad things... control your thoughts*"....*your thoughts are giving you anxiety...* Paul shows us the peace of God is not the absence of some thoughts... it is the presence of God Himself with you! **And the peace of God**... not the peace of absence of thought....

One commentator said it this way: "*Essentially Christian peace is not that you stop facing the facts... but you get something in your life, a living power that comes into your life, that enables you to triumph over those facts...lifts you up, over, and through them.*"

So how do we get the peace of God?... what is it we can do to get it?.... two things I think stand out in these verses.... *Thanking.... Thinking*

1. Thanking

Verse 6... again... says "**don't be anxious**".... Ok.. don't be anxious.... What then?...**but in everything by prayer and petition (supplication) WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known.**

There's more here than you might have thought... normally we would think like this... we have a request for God... so we give God our requests.... Then we wait for God to answer our requests... when He does.... We thank Him for it....

That's not what it says here!... it says basically.... Pray, **thank Him AS you make your requests!**...why would we do that?.... why would we thank God *before* we know how He is going to answer our prayer?

God may not answer my prayer in a way I'll be thankful for... what then?

What Paul is teaching us here is that you and I will never be content...have joy and peace until we can rest in God's answers to our prayers... regardless of His answer... we will never find contentment in this life until we can trust God no matter what He decides to do with our requests to Him.

Even larger.... thanking God *before the outcome* says the outcome is not my primary concern... my faith in God is... my relationship with the heavenly Father is.... My glorifying God is...

I can think of no one in more dire circumstances than Jonah was....

Let me read to you a little bit of Jonah chapter 2.... Jonah had tried to run from the Lord... disobeyed God...hopped on a boat to Tarshish when God wanted him on a boat to Nineveh... a stormy sea was the result... due to some edgy shipmates... it is agreed by all that Jonah was the cause of all the turmoil...

Jonah is thrown into the sea and is swallowed up by a God ordained big fish...Jonah prays to the Lord from the belly of the fish....

Read Jonah 2:1-9-10

This wasn't anything like Pinocchio and Geppetto sitting on chairs in the belly of a roomy wale wondering what they were going to do!...

Even while compressed in the stomach of a fish... with all the gastric gasses and such...

BEFORE he is saved from the fish....Jonah thanks the Lord...

this is where we put legs on Romans 8:28... this is where we live in Romans 8:28 **And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God... so we are thankful for whatever are the outcomes of our prayers...

God works EVERYTHING.... Even the things HE hates...the sins in our life... the good things... the bad things.. EVERYTHING... He weaves everything into His plan... He puts everything together and it is all going to turn out for our good and His glory.

THAT'S HOW WE CAN THANK HIM BEFORE KNOWING THE OUTCOME!

When Jesus was on the cross... His disciples and His followers looked at Him and thought *How could this happen?.... all the good Jesus was doing.. the miracles... the feeding of the poor... the lives changed by Him... the incredible ministry that was taking off.... How could this happen?... How can anything good come from Him being nailed to a cross?*

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD IN THIS!

For sure they were all thinking those thoughts... yet they were looking at the greatest thing God had ever done regarding the redemption of mankind.... But there was no way to get them to see that then.... The terrible... the tragic things that Jesus went through that day on the cross resulted in the greatest good for all mankind.... **THAT'S HOW GOD WORKS!**

2. Thinking

Verse 8 is a great verse... it is one we should all memorize then put into our daily lives... Paul gives us a list of Godly virtues... then says “**consider these things**”... or “Think on these things”...”Think about these things”(NIV)...

Logizomai... to ponder... to chew over... not just a passing thought but to sit down and pound these things into your head....

Read verse 8

What are these things?..... as I said they are “Godly virtues”.... They are virtues that God has... so what Paul is showing us is that to have stability in your life... put your thoughts on a rock!...Think about God and who He is... how He is... what He does... think on those things and make them true and characteristic in your life.

What do you think most about?... be honest... the problems of the world?... politics of the day?... global climate change?... a virus....economic stress..... one thing all these things have in common is they are all temporary.... They all will change over time...in a hundred years no one will be thinking about todays problems.....

Paul is saying.... You want peace?.... you want stability in your life?... think about doctrine!.. think about what you know about who God is and what He does...Go to a secular psychiatrist and ask what you should do about your anxiety... they will NEVER tell you to think about biblical doctrine!

I came across some interesting quotes from some very famous past secularists.... Listen to these:

Charles Darwin—*A man who has no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution or reward, can have for his rule of life, as far as I see it, only to follow those impulses and instincts which are strongest or which seems to him to be the best ones...*

In other words... remove God and the hope of eternity in heaven... all that is left is to live life on your impulses and instincts..... is that not how the world is operating today?... on impulses and instincts?..... no wonder there is no stability!..... nothing more in flux than impulses and instincts!

Oliver Windell Holmes said this... got him in a lot of trouble being a Supreme Court Justice in 1902... *There is no rational reason to say a human being is really more valuable or more significant than any animal or rock.*

His biographer said that Holmes was just working out the implications of not believing in God.... If you believe that when you die you rot... that’s it... of course the answer to your problems is yoga!

Christian peace.... The peace of God that surpasses all understanding.... Cosmic peace... comes from understanding there is more than this life... there is a God... there is a heaven and hell... there is a Savior Jesus Christ.

That same article Timothy Keller wrote back in the 90's differentiated between two types of peace... he called them *Stupid Peace* and *Smart Peace*....

Stupid Peace is blocking out the mind... Don't think!

Smart Peace is engage in the mind of Christ...

1 Corinthians 2:16...**For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.**

Keller describes Stupid Peace... Stupid peace is "*Ho! Ho! Ho! To the bottle I go, to heal my heart and drown my woe...I'm going to pop a cork...I'm going to sit under a tree...I'm going to look at the surf... I'm not going to think... I'm going to block it all out...I'm going to bracket it all out...*

Christian.... God's peace is not blocking out thoughts... true peace doesn't happen by making yourself stupid!.... it comes from **Think on these things.... Whatever is true.... Whatever is dignified... whatever is right... whatever is pure.... Whatever is lovely...whatever is commendable....if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise.... Consider... think... dwell... on these things.....**

These are the things of God.

Finally... back to verse 6... a little more on the secret to a peace that surpasses all your comprehension... note that Paul says this peace will ...**guard your hearts and minds**... he distinguishes between the two because it is one thing to THINK about all these things...

Keeping our thoughts on the big picture... focusing our thoughts on Jesus Christ...to have the mind of Christ... it's another thing to keep your heart in Him... to have your HEART in Jesus Christ....

Your heart grows in Jesus when you have a relationship with Him.... When His reality comes off the page of this book and into your heart.... That's why true joy and peace come from thinking and thanking..... thinking is from the mind... thanking from the heart...

The last two verses in Isaiah chapter 57 says this:

**But the wicked are like the tossing sea
For it cannot be quiet
And its waters toss up refuse and mud
"There is no peace" says my God, "for the wicked"**

If you love anything more than God... if you live for anything more than God... your life will be like a tossing sea.... Restless... constantly bringing us refuse and mud...

In 1906, listening to the great preacher/evangelist R.A. Torrey... a young songwriter working for the Torrey evangelistic ministry named Ada Habershon penned the words to the hymn "*He Will Hold Me Fast*"... her thoughts regarding the work of Christ in a Christian's life of turmoil....

The hymn was handed to Dr Torrey and it became the final hymn sung at all his meetings.... Despite the popularity of the hymn in that day.... It soon disappeared from the Christian music world.

Until just a few years ago when a young... struggling Christian man named Matt Merker discovered an old copy of the hymn.... This is what he said:

*I forgot about the song for a while, but later pulled it out again when I was walking through a difficult personal season of doubt and uncertainty. I was wrestling with the hard questions of the faith and struggling to place my trust in the enduring power of God's preserving grace...Jude 24 became an anchor for my soul in that trying time: "**Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy . . .**" . . . I pulled out "*He Will Hold Me Fast*" again and the words ministered to me deeply. I wanted to see the resurrection and return of Christ featured in the lyrics, since our hope is guaranteed by the reality that Christ has risen and is coming again. I first shared the song with my wife and then with our pastor, and he suggested we should try singing it as a congregation. the church quickly owned the song and began singing it with joy (and really loud voices!).*

The Ghetty's have reworked it some and it is in our hymnal..

Listen to some of the words... how appropriate for Philippians 4:1-9.... We will sing all of the words in a few minutes...

When I fear my faith will fail
 Christ will hold me fast
 When the tempter would prevail
 He will hold me fast
 I could never keep my hold
 Through life's fearful path
 For my love is often cold
 He must hold me fast
 He will hold me fast
 He will hold me fast
 For my Savior loves me so

He will hold me fast
Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast...
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast
For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last
He will hold me fast...
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

