

Philippians 4:1-7

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

- my brothers
- whom I love and long for
- my joy and crown –
 - “Crown”
 - Greek has two words for “Crown”
 - Diadema ([Strong's #1238](#)) of a king (The beast [Rev 13:1](#); and Christ [Rev 19:12](#))
 - Stephanos – [στέφανος](#); stéphanos; stef'-an-os ([Strong's #4735](#)) – Not a kingly or imperial crown. This was the kind that symbolized victory in the Greek games, military valor (Sometimes of conquering kings, but for achievement). Stephanos meant "wreath" or "garland" not the sign of royalty.
 - Given to guests at joyful banquets
 - The Philippians were Paul's sign of Joy and Victory!!
 - In glory, we will radiate joy when we see folks we shared the gospel with down here!
 - If we give to the church, a mission, the message of Jesus to a neighbor, we will probably have people let us know.
 - We will be pleasantly blessed!! στέφανος

Exhortation, Encouragement, and Prayer

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

- Euodia and Syntyche
 - Euodia – *prosperous journey, success*;¹
 - Syntyche – *fortune/ fortunate*²
- agree in the Lord – Be of the same mind! Play on words?!

¹ <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Euodia>

² <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Syntyche>

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.

- true companion – Some think this is the jailer from [Acts 16:25-34](#)
 - probably not. He is not identified –
 - [QUOTE] “Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent” – Thomas Campbell
 - This became a slogan of the USA’s Restoration Movement in the 19th century.
- labored side by side with me in the gospel
 - The work of the church sometimes leads people into disagreement with each other.
 - We should focus on Christ
 - [Quote] “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love/charity”
 - whose names are in the book of life.
 - [Luke 10](#), Jesus counsels the 72 to rejoice not in the demons fleeing, but that they were in the book of life!
 - *¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*
 - It is possible that every person had their name in this book.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

- reasonableness – Yielded Ness
- The Lord is at hand – He is near! Not far from any one of us.
 - He is not in his PJ’s, sipping coffee with a remote in his hand. He is dressed at the door, ready to come meet us in the air! [1 Thess 4:16-17](#)
 - *¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are*

left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

- He is also with us now!
 - [Proverbs 5:21](#) –*For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.*

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

- anxious about anything –**Author Unknown**

A faithful pastor had been on a long flight from one place to another. The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on: Fasten your seat belts. Then, after a while, a calm voice said, “We shall not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seat belt is fastened.”

As he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer said, “We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us.”

Then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightening lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, “As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm.

Then, he suddenly saw a little girl.

Apparently the storm meant nothing to her. She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly. Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world. When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid.” The pastor could hardly believe his eyes.

It was not surprising therefore, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, the pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. Having commented about the storm and behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid.

The child replied, “Cause my Daddy’s the pilot, and he’s taking me home.”³

- “There are many kinds of storms that buffet us:
Physical, Mental, Financial, Domestic, and...many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our plane into apparently uncontrollable movement. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on the ground than when we are being tossed about a darkened sky. Let us remember... Our Father is the Pilot... He is in control and taking us home. So, Don’t Worry.”⁴
- Similar to the [Mark 4](#) storm
- Going down the hill in Pinnacle, NC, story
 - I was up all night with worry.
 - The rain was getting worse!
 - Anxiety can cripple us. He calms us!
- Be anxious for **no**-thing, in **every**-thing – Pray
- in everything – pray!

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

- **peace of God** – we have peace with God already, because of Christ!
 - **The Peace of God** goes beyond our understanding.
 - [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) – ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- [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?^[a] 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.

³ <https://inspire21.com/dont-worry/>

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- *³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*
- If we really believe that He is at hand, we can have Peace!

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.