

Spiritual Stability

Philippians 4 is full of memorable verses. I reread the chapter and came across verse 4; 6-7; 8-9; 12; 13; and 19. With all of these, it is easy to miss the bigger picture. The theme of these verses is all about stability in Christ. Look closely at the end of 4.1: *in this manner stand firm in the Lord*. Not everything was perfect at Philippi. They were subject to persecution, threats to unity, enemies of the cross, and worry. We struggle with this today. How can we be stable?

I. 4.1 - *Stand firm in the Lord*.

- A. Military term .. “to stand your ground.” “to hold your position while under attack.” “stand your post in the midst of battle.”
- B. Spiritual stability is associated with godliness, Christlikeness, holiness, and maturity.
- C. 4.1 - The Heart Behind It
 - 1. My dearly **loved** and longed for brothers and sisters...
 - 2. He genuinely loved and missed them.
- D. 4.1 - *In this manner*... This is how you do it.

II. 4.2-4 - *Harmony and Joy*

- A. 4.2-3 - Harmony
 - 1. NASB: Euodia / Syntyche: *to live in **harmony** in the Lord*.
 - 2. 4.3 - they were to help these women. Resolve the conflict. Pursue peace, harmony, and unity.
- B. 4.4 - **Rejoice** in the Lord
 - 1. Instead of being self focused ... *rejoice in the Lord*. It is a command.
 - 2. In the Lord ... not in our circumstances.

III. 4.5-6a - *Humility and Faith*

- A. 4.5a - *Let your **graciousness** be known to everyone*.
 - 1. Speaking about contentment. “Sweet reasonableness” “big heartedness” “generosity” “Good will.” It is the graciousness of humility.
 - 2. When we have spiritual stability we won’t be knocked off balance by inequity, injustice, unfair treatment, lies, or humiliation.
- B. 4.5b-6a - *The Lord is **near**, don’t worry about anything...*
 - 1. Think of his immediate personal, presence. The life of God is in our soul. Therefore...
 - 2. 4.6a - *don’t **worry** about anything*. Is there anything God can’t handle?

IV. 4.6b-7 - *Thankful Prayer*

- A. 4.6b - *in **everything**, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God*.
- B. 4.7a - Result of a Thankful Heart
 - 1. *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,...* It is given to us. It’s not human.
 - 2. 4.7b - Peace is a **guard** against anxiety, discontentment, doubt, fear, and distress.

V. 4.8 - *Godly Thinking*

- A. 4.8 - **dwelling** on these things. Spiritual stability is the result of how you think.
- B. You are the product of your thinking.
- C. Christian faith is essentially thinking. See Matthew 6.25-30. Worry is the absence of thought.

VI. *Conclusion*

- A. Spiritual stability can be found by applying the 4 principles found in Philippians 4.2-8. Are you following through?