

Right Actions

When times of weakness and difficulty come, where do we go? Answer: The Lord. David provides us with a great example in Psalm 38:9, 15, 22. And that is really the message of Philippians 4:1-9. When Paul calls upon Christians to stand firm in the Lord, he is calling on us to turn to God in total dependence and trust. We are called to be strong, stable, and anxiety free. We do this by adopting the attitudes in 4:2-7, thinking the right thoughts of 4:8, and by doing the right things in 4:9. We must put into practice what the gospel demands.

I. Put it into Practice

- A. Philippians 4:9: **Do** what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
 - 1. “Do”: Active tense; continuous action; no indication of a time of completion; i.e. repetition.
 - 2. Right attitudes produce right thoughts which lead to right actions.
- B. 2 Corinthians 10:4–5: *the **weapons** of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.*
 - 1. Your godly attitudes and thoughts bring your flesh under control.
 - 2. Purity in your behavior brings peace and stability.
 - a) Isaiah 32:17: *The result of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be **quiet confidence** forever.*
 - b) James 3:18: *And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate **peace**.*
 - 3. Righteousness leads to contentment, calm, comfort, peace, tranquility, and stability.
- C. Back to Philippians 4:9:
 - 1. We are to be habitually controlled by the law of God.
 - 2. Romans 12:21: *Do not be conquered by evil, but **conquer** evil with good.*

II. Put “What” into Practice?

- A. What you have **learned**.
 - 1. Paul taught Christians. They were urged to follow.
 - 2. 2 Timothy 3:10: *...my teaching, **conduct**, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance,*
 - 3. Philippians 3:17: *Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful attention to those who live according to the example you have in us.*
- B. What you have **received**.
 - 1. Paul gave them what he received directly from God.
 - 2. He’s talking about the treasure of Scripture. Things that originated in God.
- C. What you have **heard**.
 - 1. Think reputation, i.e., “what you have heard about me and is true about me.”
 - 2. His character, lifestyle, and ministry.
- D. What you have **seen**.
 - 1. first-hand experience. *What you have seen with your own eyes.*
 - 2. He modeled the standard. He possessed peace, joy, humility, faith, and gratitude. His thoughts were true. He was their pattern.

III. As We Close

- A. If you have godly attitudes, thoughts, and deeds ...
 - 1. you will be guarded by the peace of God, v. 7.
 - 2. and the God of peace, v. 9.
- B. Will you live according to God’s pattern?
- C. If you don’t know the God of peace, will you get to know Him today?