

Humility and Faith

It should be very obvious that we live in an unstable world. The world is filled with anxiety. More and more people display an inability to cope with the circumstances of life. It appears that many are headed in the wrong direction as they seek to find solutions. The answers to the deepest longings of our heart do not come from secular culture. So where do you go to learn how to deal with anxiety? Where do you go to get your life really stabilized? This week we're taking a long look at Philippians 4.1-9 where Paul lists steps to stability. What are two more?

I. Stability comes by contentment

- A. Philippians 4:5a: *Let your **graciousness** be known to everyone.*
 - 1. *Graciousness* means “not insisting on every right of letter of law or custom, yielding, gentle, kind, courteous, tolerant.”
 - 2. How much is this quality needed in the church today? In our families? At work? Individually?
- B. The graciousness of humility learns to accept mistreatment and being maligned.
 - 1. Isn't this the way God has treated us?
 - 2. *For if, while we were **enemies**, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. And not only that, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation,* Romans 5.10-11.
- C. We must strive to be “humbly gracious.”

II. Confident faith in the Lord

- A. Philippians 4:5b-6a: *The Lord is **near**. Don't worry about anything,*
- B. The Lord is Near... i.e., Christ is near in terms of his immediate presence.
 - 1. Do you live your life in this confidence?
 - 2. Psalm 57:7: *My heart is **confident**, God, my heart is confident. I will sing; I will sing praises.*
 - 3. If we have a confident trust in the Lord that He is near, what do we have to worry about?
- C. Don't worry about anything.
 - 1. Philippians 4:6: *Don't worry about **anything**.* Is there anything God can't handle?
 - 2. Psalm 1.2 - The key is taking **delight** in the Lord

III. As We Close...

- A. Matthew 6:25: *Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your **life**, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?*
- B. Matthew 6:30: *If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you—you of **little** faith?*
- C. Matthew 6.33-34: *But seek **first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough **trouble** of its own.*
- D. This is how to have a stable life.