

## GOD

### Philippians Chapter 4: an overview

Philippians is an epistle of reproof, written by the Apostle Paul to people who lost touch of the great revelation to the Church about our standing as members of a family in the Body of Christ and how we are to function together as a household. Chapter 4 is a great summation of how we are to live. Like Paul's other epistles, we can insert our names: the great truths apply to us, as well. We'll begin in verse 1:

4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

Verse 1 starts with "Therefore" – this refers us back to what is covered in Chapter 3, verses 20 and 21, which tell us that now that we are born-again, our citizenship (mistranslated "conversation") is in heaven, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ will be coming back to get us, and we will be given perfect bodies like he has, part of our Hope for the Return of Christ and eternal life that we will enjoy.

Because of this great truth ("Therefore"), verse 1 of Chapter 4 tells us, God's "dearly beloved," that we should "stand fast in the Lord". We as members of the household are to stand strong together, in fellowship with God and with each other.

We'll go to verse 4:

4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

If we know what we have in Christ, made available through the accomplishments of Jesus Christ, we can rejoice.

4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

This is a very poor translation. "Known" is from the word for "to know by experience", and applies to us, not to what other people "know". The verse more accurately reads: "Learn by experience forbearance toward all men". As we renew our minds and practice walking on the Word of God, we will be able to be more peaceful as we have more patience and endurance ("forbearance") toward all. We can do this because we have Christ ("the Lord") in us ("at hand") – that gift of holy spirit within. Because we have Christ in us, we can accomplish what it says in the next verse:

4:6 Be careful ("anxious" *in the text*) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

We are not to have anxiety about anything: don't be anxious about any situation, event, or action that comes along. Instead of being anxious, we are to go to God in prayer. "Supplication" is "specific, earnest request" – get specific and believe when we pray. And, we

are to pray “with thanksgiving” – be thankful to God, thanking Him that He hears your prayer and has already worked out the solution. The word “requests” is the word “demands” – it’s like going to a bank to cash a check, knowing that the money is in the account of the one who wrote the check, and “demanding” payment. God’s promises are like the check: He never backs down on His promises, so we can be confident that as we “demand” (like asking for the amount of money indicated on the check) He will always come through. Notice also the word is not “begging”. When we pray to God, we never beg. We, His children, simply thank Him for fulfilling His promises to take care of us.

As we do this, going to God in prayer rather than being anxious, we will have peace:

4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts (*the seat of your personal life*) and minds (thoughts) through (in) Christ Jesus.

This peace we will have, that is so great we can’t even understand or comprehend it, is the only true peace that is available in this time we live in. There will never be “world peace” or any other kind of peace that will endure (it says that elsewhere in the Word), but we born again believers can experience true peace as we go to God in prayer.

4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things *are* true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

This verse lists eight things that God wants us to think, or dwell on: things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy. Spiritually, eight is the number for new beginnings. As we dwell on these eight things, we can have a new beginning with peace in the face of any unrest we might face. All eight of these things actually refer to God’s Word, which has all of these characteristics. We are to keep God’s Word in our minds.

4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and (then) the God of peace (figure of speech for “the God who gives peace”) will be with you.

We are to “be doers of the Word, and not hearers only”. As we dwell on God’s Word and renew our minds according to it and live accordingly, God, the One who gives true peace, can bless us. He’s always with us, but if we’re out of fellowship He can’t bless us with the perfect peace He’s made available.

Rather than going through all the remaining verses of this chapter, here are just a couple ones to keep in mind that will help you get through any situation:

4:13 I can do all things through Christ which (who) strengtheneth me.

The word “can” implies not just our ability but also our permission and responsibility. The word “all” refers to all things God promises in His Word that we can do (and there’s a lot). Literally, what this verse says is: “I am ready for anything, and equal to anything, through him who infuses inner strength unto me.” That’s a great promise that we can keep in mind!

The final verse we’ll look at is verse 19, another great verse that will help you to be peaceful and to trust God:

4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

In the context, Paul was writing about the great principle of giving and receiving: as we give (whether it’s of our money, material things, time, or talent), we can expect to receive back. And as we operate this principle, God shall absolutely supply all our needs (it doesn’t say “greeds,” though). And, He can do this “according to his riches in glory by (because of the accomplishments of) Christ Jesus.” “His riches in glory” is a figure of speech for “his glorious riches”, emphasizing that God’s riches are glorious. Because of His extremely glorious riches, God, who created the heavens and the earth, is able to (and will as we apply the principle) supply all of our needs. We don’t ever need to be lacking in anything. No matter what comes along, God will take care of us as we continue to go to His Word and endeavor to live it.

- Dr. Rick Batt