

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

The word therefore is therefore a reason and it is to continue the thought of the previous verse. The apostle Paul had just spoke of us receiving a glorified body and now is transitioning into the crown of joy that we have because death has no more sting for a believer (1 Cor 15:55).

The word stand fast in Greek is stēkōis and means to be stationary. The only way to remain stationary and secure and to keep from falling is through grace. Part of the armor of God is our feet shod with the preparation with the Gospel of peace (Eph 6:15). In Paul's day he was surrounded around the largest military regime of his time in Rome. The sandals for the Roman soldier's feet were composed of thick leather soles studded with iron cleats. This equipped the soldiers to be firm in their positions and was also made so that the soldiers could progress forward against their enemy and not backwards. We should have a solid foundation with the good news of us being in a dispensation of God's peace extended towards us that we are not retreating and falling back into legalism or condemnation.

If a football player does not have his cleats on then his opponents will be able to take advantage of him because he is not secure in the ground. He will not be stable and firm and this is the same for a believer. The moment we get into works we have taken off our grace shoes.

A believer should always be progressing forward and advancing. We have power and covenant with God and should not be at the mercy of circumstances but it should be at the mercy of us.

Philippians 4:2 *I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.*

Paul begins to conclude his letter with exhortation and encouragement. Euodias and Syntyche were both Christian woman who may have had an apparent disagreement so Paul was encouraging them to do what he had spoken of most of this letter which was to get on the same page and be of the same mind.

Euodias and Syntyche were true participants in spreading the gospel and was the only time that the two women were mentioned.

Philippians 4:3 *And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.*

Clement was also a Christian. Anyone who is born again has their names written in heaven (Lk 10:20). Jesus told the seventy not to rejoice because the demons submit to His name but to rejoice over our names written in heaven. True joy comes from relationship with God.

This was also the only time Clement was mentioned in scripture.

Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

This is one of the most recited scriptures throughout the Bible but many are not living it. One of the keys to understanding that we should rejoice is because our new nature already has joy deposited on the inside of him (Gal 5:22). A believer's new nature is never sad or depressed.

Joy is the antidote to the pressures of life. It was the joy set before Jesus that He was able to endure the cross and during His earthly ministry He had more joy than any of His companions and was anointed with the oil of joy (Heb 1:9). When we are on the highway of hell; look up there is an exit road titled rejoice!

Paul said to rejoice twice in this verse.

Philippians 4:5 *Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.*

Here is another command not a suggestion. Our gentleness not our sound doctrine or how much Word we know should be known to all men. Outsiders will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (Jn 13:35). 2 Timothy 2:23 says we should approach our opponents gently.

At hand in Greek is *eng-goos'* and means a place of position. Jesus is at the highest position and has delegated the Kingdom to His church.

Philippians 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

In context, Paul is encouraging the Philippians because they were concerned about his imprisonment and Epaphroditus' health. Here, he is telling them to be careful for nothing. The word careful in Greek is *merimnao* and means anxious. The only way to get anxious is to get our eyes off the word and onto the circumstances. A shift in focus can eliminate anxiety.

The Greek word for nothing is *mēdeis* and means not even one.

This does not say be careful for somethings, it says for nothing. It is pride to carry around cares when the word says to cast them (1 Peter 5:7). The Greek word for cast is *epirrhptō* and means to throw upon. When a WWE fighter is in the ring; he throws, cast, and slams his opponent down. This is the same thing we should be doing with cares.

Jesus was asleep during a storm on the Sea of Galilee while crossing with His disciples (Mark 4:35-41). Jesus was in peace while the disciples were in panic. The disciples said to Jesus, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing." Jesus did not move into panic but remained at peace because He knew He had authority over the storm and exalted His Father's word above it (Jn 13:3, Mt 4:4).

Philippians 4:7 *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

The Greek word for guard or to keep is *phroureō* and means to protect or prevent hostile invasion. Peace will prevent hostile invasion from the enemy. The enemy is an intruder because our body belongs to God (1 Cor 6:19). He is never at peace and tries to invade our life but if our minds are stayed upon the Lord, He will keep us in perfect peace (Is 26:3).

The peace of God is independent of circumstances. The world's peace is conditional and is only stable if the things around them are. Peace is a part of our new nature and the new man is new troubled or afraid (Gal 5:22-23, 2 Tim 1:7).

The peace of God will keep our hearts and minds. The word keep used here in Greek is *phroureo* and means to be a watcher in advance, to mount, guard or protect. The peace we already possess if we draw on it, will be as a force field around our hearts and minds.

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

The way we stay in perfect peace is dependent on the way we think (Is 26:3, Rm 8:6). This verse says what we should keep our minds on. Things that are true, noble, just, lovely, good report, of virtue, or anything praise worthy.

Is poverty praise worthy? Is the doctor's report of the condition a good report? It is important to put our mind on God's word and what He has to say. Depression at its root is founded on the way a person thinks. This may be hard to swallow but depression is a decision. A believer should not flirt with grief and sorrow.

This is a command to think this way and not an option or suggestion. A life guard gives commands to not dive into the shallow end or run around the pool to ensure safety of the people. Likewise, if our minds are not stayed on the things listed above it can and will change the course of our life (Pr. 23:7).

Philippians 4:9 *The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

This is a powerful verse that ends with doing it does not start with it. The process listed here is the New Testament church should walk in actions. They first see someone else living it, then hear, next they have to ultimately receive the word spoken and then they begin to learn. Once a believe has gone through this process then and only then will they be able to produce works.

Philippians 4:10 *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.*

Paul is concluding this letter with thanksgiving and speaking of God's provision through the Philippian church. When he says that the church lacked opportunity it was only because they could not find Paul. Their hearts were positioned to give to him financially.

People today will say ministers should not be wealthy. Paul's letter to Timothy states that elders who rule well should be given a double portion financially, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine (1 Tim 5:17). Ministers of the gospel are feeding the people and the people should pay where they are getting fed.

Philippians 4:11 *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

The Greek word for learned is *manthanō* and means to be in the habit of. We can get in the habit of being content in all things. Majority of people have formed a habit of reacting in panic and fear but through the renewal of our minds we can train ourself and move into the habit of being content and that becoming our default regardless of what the enemy throw at us.

Most people in the morning have a habit of their routine. They perform the same things daily when preparing for the day without much thought. We can get in a routine of being content and not putting much thought into it because we have trained ourself in this area.

Being content does not mean we are content **with** something but content **in** something. We should not be content with sickness, lack, or anything else Jesus took. We should not be content with anything that just comes our way. If it did not come from God, we should not accept it. Paul had to learn to be content in any state he was in. We too have to learn this.

Philippians 4:12 *I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

This verse is not saying we should be satisfied being poor. Poverty is a curse and believers are redeemed from the curse (Deu 28:15-65, Gal 3:13). God would not want us to be poor any more than he would not want us to live in sin; He sent His son to pay for both (2 Cor 8:9). We should not be content with what is being thrown at us but be content with while it is being thrown at us. Victory is found in being in a place of peace regardless of the circumstances. Whatever we are content with having or tolerating, God will allow us to have and He will not violate our free will.

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

This is a popular verse that most people have on their refrigerator but are not truly seeing what it says. This is conditional on walking in our new identity in Christ. To the degree that we walk in the spirit, we can do all things because we are plugged into Him. When we abort self-effort and our own ability God's grace and favor will begin to flow.

Philippians 4:14 *Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.*

This word distress in Greek is thlopsi and means affliction and persecution. Paul lists the troubles he went through in 2 Corinthians 11:23- 30. In context, Paul was speaking of financial strain which is an affliction.

The pressures Paul was facing were also persecution and opposition that will be faced when preaching the gospel.

Philippians 4:15 *Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.*

The Philippian church was not the largest church but they were the only ones who supported Paul at the beginning of him advancing the gospel. The partner is just as important as the preacher and the one being sent is just as important as the sender.

The church of Philippi was comprised of Gentiles and the first Christian church of Europe. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey.

Philippians 4:16 *For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.*

This was a continual supporting of Paul's commission to preach the gospel through the Philippians. It was not a one-time donation.

Paul is letting the Philippians know he is aware of their gifts and does not take their support lightly. His joy was not found in the gift they sent but the fruit that would go to their account.

A harvest will never come without a seed being sown. When we support ministers, we are sowing seed and partnering in their harvest. Many people see offering time during a church service as an option not an opportunity to sow seed.

Philippians 4:17 *Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.*

The fruit that abounds in the Philippians account is deposited into their spiritual account. Anytime we sow into the gospel we have an account in heaven that will never fade or spoil. All of our earthly accounts will disappear but when we sow into the gospel it is eternal seed.

Philippians 4:18 *Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.*

Epaphroditus was the vessel God used to bring aid to Paul.

Philippians 4:19 *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

The supply that we have is from God's riches and glory which means there is no limit. It is in the spirit realm and up to us to draw it out. Part of spiritual laws that govern finances is the law of sowing and reaping. The Philippian church was operating in sowing into the gospel and they would reap in return. We can declare this verse three times a day but if we are not giving it won't be given back unto us.

The entire book of Philippians was written to partners. God will supply the partners needs according to His riches and glory because they are giving and it is given back to them.

Is this verse against grace? If we give and then God gives back to us is this now saying that when we move then He will? No, God moved first and all we need is in our spiritual account. We are placing a demand on God's grace and responding to what He has already done.

Philippians 4:20 *Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Paul is beginning to close out this letter and refers to God not only as God but our Father. All glory goes to Jesus for ushering us in to be adopted and calling God abba!

Philippians 4:21 *Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.*

The word Greek word for greet or salute is aspazomai and means to receive joyfully. This again highlights the theme of this book which is joy.

Philippians 4:22 *All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.*

Paul was about his Father's business and the commission that had been given to him. He counted his life worth nothing to him and his only aim was to finish his race and complete the task of preaching the Good News of God's grace (Acts 20:24).

Paul had exposed the Gospel to those of Caesar's household and converted people within his family. Because of Paul's chains he became more known to Caesar's family and he took the opportunity while in here to preach the gospel. He turned the house of those who once persecuted Christ into a church.

Philippians 4:23 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

Paul did exactly what he said he would; to finish his race with joy (Acts 20:24).