

SERMON NOTES

*Joy for the Journey: A Life of Perpetual Joy
Resting in God's Presence
Philippians 4:6-9*

Do you have peace with God? Do you have the peace of God? There is a distinct difference between these two questions. The first question determines if you are a Christian. The second question describes if you are resting in the presence of God. Paul turned from encouraging the Philippians to be at peace with one another, to reminding them that perpetual joy involves resting in God's presence. When you are resting in God's presence, the Lord gives His peace!

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." *John 14:27* (NASB95)

WHAT PREVENTS A PERSON FROM RESTING IN GOD'S PRESENCE?

(v. 6b) (Matthew 6:25; 1 Peter 5:7)

"Be anxious for nothing"

In nothing be anxious (*μηδεν μεριμνατε* [*mēden merimnāte*]). Present imperative in prohibition, "stop being anxious."^[1]

People become worried, anxious, and fearful because they do not trust in God's wisdom, power, or goodness. They fear that God is not wise enough, strong enough, or good enough to prevent disaster. It may be that this sinful doubt is because their knowledge of Him is faulty, or that sin in their lives has crippled their faith. Thankful prayer brings release from fear and worry, because it affirms God's sovereign control over every circumstance, and that His purpose is the believer's good (Romans 8:28).^[2]

- Unbelief
- Interpersonal conflict
- Fear
- Worry/anxiety
- Lack of trust

RESTING IN GOD'S PRESENCE? (vs. 6b-9)

Produces...(What are the results of resting in God's presence?)

- Inner calm in the midst of storms

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (v. 7)

- Confidence in God's abiding presence

"And the God of peace will be with you." (v. 9b)

Pathway...(how do I get there?)

- Prayer (vs. 6-7)
- Ponder the wonders of God (v. 8)

"Think on these things" - Present middle imperative for habit of thought. We are responsible for our thoughts and can hold them to high and holy ideals.

- Practice the principles from God (v. 9)

We learn how to live the principles of the Word of God by learning, receiving, hearing, and watching! The idea of "knowing" Christ in the NT is not merely informational and cerebral. "Knowing Christ" is intended to be based on His truth (the Word), personal, experiential, and observable.

^[1] Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament (Philippians 4:6)*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

^[2] MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2001). *Philippians* (p. 283). Chicago: Moody Press.