

Seek Peace and Pursue it: Encouraging

Philippians 4:4-13

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Philippians 4:4-13 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ God's gift of peace

_____: After I am gone the Comforter who is the Holy Spirit...shall teach you... and remind you...My peace I leave with you. My peace I am giving to you, I do not give you the same peace that the world gives to you, so do not let your heart be troubled or be cowardly.
John 14:24-25 (JOT)

2. _____ an encouraging peace

_____ in the Lord: Rejoice in the Lord at all times, let me be clear: you must rejoice! Respond with gentleness because the Lord is near!
Philippians 4:4-5 (JOT)

_____ worry: Stop being anxious about everything, instead make your prayers and needs known to God, mixed hardily with giving thanks, and the peace of God which surpasses our understanding, will guard your hearts and minds....
Philippians 4:6-7a (JOT)

_____ your mind: I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds... (with) the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.
Philippians 4:8-9 (MSG)

3. _____ our struggling spirits

_____: Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me...Then the God of peace will be with you...I have learned the secret of living in every situation... For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. Philippians 4:9, 12, 13 (NLT2)

Spiritual Action Step:

God wants to revive your heart and mind today. He wants to share with you this gift of peace! First, ask God for this peace that is beyond your expectations and circumstances. Accept this peace by acknowledging Jesus as your Lord and that he is near. Rejoice in God's salvation for you. Jesus invites you to learn of him, and he will give you rest. (Matthew 11:29) Remember, realize, and revive God's peace in your heart. **What will you choose? Decide to move from the darkness into the light and peace of God's presence!** This week, read John 14 and Philippians 4 to let the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit share with you God's peace.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; MSG: JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message; NLT2: New Living Translation, 2nd edition.