

THE PEACE OF GOD—NO NEED TO BE ANXIOUS

TEXT: (Philippians 4:2-7, NIV)

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ 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 everything, 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.

INTRODUCTION

1. “A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, ‘Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?’
He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm” (Mark 4:37-39, NIV).
2. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NIV).

I. PEACE IN THE HEART

A. Be Joyful in the Lord

1. “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4, NIV).
2. “Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy” (Proverbs 14:10, NIV).

B. Don’t Be Anxious

1. “Do not be anxious about anything” (Philippians 4:6, NIV).
2. “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7, NIV).

C. Be Prayerful and Thankful in Everything

1. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6, NIV).
2. “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).

II. PEACE—A WORK OF THE SPIRIT

A. Peace of Mind

1. “For he himself is our peace” (Ephesians 2:14, NIV)!
2. “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7, NIV).

B. A Testimony to the World

1. “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34, NIV).
2. “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes’” (Luke 19:41-42, NIV).

3. “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you” (Isaiah 26:3, NIV).

III. PEACE IN THE HOME

A. Develop an Attitude to Prevent Strife

1. “So Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left” (Genesis 13:8-9, NIV).
2. The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, ‘Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted’ (Genesis 13:14-16, NIV).
3. “Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city” (Proverbs 16:32, NIV).
4. “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:18-21, NIV).

B. Put Others Ahead of Self

1. “Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand” (Philippians 2:3-4, MSG).
2. “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10, NIV).

C. Cultivate a Peaceful and Loving Spirit

1. “Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, ‘Why have you treated us like this? Why didn’t you call us when you went to fight Midian?’ And they criticized him sharply. But he answered them, ‘What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren’t the gleanings of Ephraim’s grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer? God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?’ At this, their resentment against him subsided” (Judges 8:1-3, NIV)
2. “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1, NIV).
3. “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity” (Colossians 3:12-15, NIV).

IV PEACE IN THE CHURCH

A. Maintaining Harmony in the Church

1. “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3, NIV).
2. “I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord” (Philippians 4:2, NIV).
3. “But if you give them a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you’ll soon wish you hadn’t. You’d be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck” (Matthew 18:6, MSG).
4. “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165, KJV).

B. Being a Peacemaker for the Prince of Peace

1. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9, NIV).
2. “Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life” (Philippians 4:3, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful” (Colossians 3:15, NIV).
2. “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV).
3. “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV).