

21 Philippians 4:5-9

How to Have the Peace of God

1. Phil 4:5

- a. *"moderation be known"* – commonly moderation is applied only to God
 - i. We should be zealous about the Lord Jesus Christ – Eph 3:19, 5:18, Phil 1:11
 - ii. *"never have enough of a good thing"* – let the good thing be of God - Gal 4:18
- b. *"The Lord is at hand"* – not just coming soon, but also nearby. Acts 18:10, 2 Tim 4:17
- c. How do we know he is with us? – Col 2:5, 2Co 13:11, Rom 15:33, 2Th 3:16, 2Ti 4:22

2. Phil 4:6

- a. Each of these instructions concern the inner man, they do not describe the flesh.
- b. Prayer and "requests" sticks out in this verse about "being careful for nothing"
- c. *"be careful..."* – some couldn't care less (for them Titus 3:8), but most need this
- d. Worry/anxiety is a form of unbelief in these verses and is the enemy of peace
- e. *"in every thing"* – every anxious worrisome fretful situation
- f. Prayer is an exercise of faith toward God – time spent in prayer is not wasted
- g. *"with thanksgiving"* – part of the process that prevents paralyzing carefulness
- h. *"let your requests"* – You worry because you want or need something – Eph 3:20

3. Phil 4:7

- a. This verse does not say "whatsoever ye ask, I will do" – John 14:13-14, 15:16
- b. Nor does it say, "Be careful what you pray; God doesn't take requests."
- c. We have peace with God (Rom 5:1), but this is peace of God in you – Rom 8:6
- d. Prayers are given to God in trust – knowing he promises to provide his peace
- e. Paul says again and again "grace and peace" for a reason: he prays - Rom 14:17
- f. Peace = freedom from war, want, worry, turmoil, strife – you get it with prayer
- g. *"passeth understanding"* – there is a thing past knowing, there is experiencing peace
- h. *"shall keep"* – to preserve in a sound, secure, safe condition... how? Rom 8:28, 32
- i. *"through Christ Jesus"* - who knows all, has done all, provides all things - Read ch.1-3
- j. Prayer creates care for the Lord and removes fear from hearts and minds – 2Tim 1:7
- k. Prayer is also needed when things are good to prevent carnality and indifference

4. Phil 4:8-9

- a. Where your mind goes, so goes your walk in the Lord
- b. Its easier to tear down than to build up, thinking on evil is easier than on the good
- c. Wesley makes this a list of two things: duties and commendations.
 - i. True in speech, honest in action, just towards others, keep yourself pure
 - ii. Truth in love, honest reports, virtue in justice, praise what is pure
- d. Right thinking requires the mind of Christ and the word of God in us.
- e. *"those things... do"* - The inner man change will affect an outward action
- f. *"...in me"* – Paul presents himself as our pattern again like in 2 Tim 3:10
- g. With the mind of Christ, and following our pattern – the God of peace is with us.