

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Philippians 4:1-9

Last time...pressing with laser focus toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus as citizens of heaven

This time...the blessing of the peace of God in a world gone mad

- Be in unity
- Rejoice in the Lord always
- Be Christ-like!
- Pray instead of worry
- Think on Jesus
- Do what the Holy Spirit has taught us

v1 Therefore...starting to wrap up the letter, in light of all the encouraging truth above

my brethren...Family of God

1. dearly beloved...the object of God's supernatural love
2. longed for...greatly loved and yearned for
3. my joy...great delight
4. and crown...*stephanos* wreath of the victor, his "thrill of victory"

Words of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of Truth,
expressing the hearts of

- the Father for His children – an everlasting, nurturing love
 - the Bridegroom for His Bride – very Song-of-Solomon-esque
- filled with a love that is up close and personal,
not distant and unapproachable

Words spoken to you and to me, personally!

Are you secure in the Lord's over-abounding love for you?

Are you as He is – loving up close and personal, not distant and unapproachable?

so stand fast in the Lord dearly beloved (repeated/emphasized)

Because we are so profoundly loved by the Lord,

- wander not away from Him and His great love for us
- be stationary in the Lord, single-minded and not double-minded, unstable in all our ways (James 1:8)
- be still and know that the Lord Jesus Christ is God, knowing
2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- persevere all the way to the Finish Line in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom we shine as lights in the world

v2 I beseech...beg, plead with

Euodias and Syntyche...two women, two sisters in the Lord, with an unspecified squabble, some issue negatively affecting their relationship

that they be of the same mind in the Lord...get along with each other, be in unity, be like-minded and in one accord with Jesus Christ, which is

Phil 2:7-8

John 15:13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

Rom 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

1 Tim 5:21 *...without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality (favoritism)*

James 3:17 *...peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

Parents, does it not grieve you when your children do not get along?

Is it not a parent's heartache when their children squabble with each other, when there is a division in the family?

Is it not a parent's joy when their children love each other, enjoy each other's company, when they get along?

So it is with our Father in heaven

Is there a brother or sister in the Lord with whom you do not get along?

Put aside your differences for the sake of the love of Christ and the peace of God

Rom 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men (especially in the household of faith!).*

v3 And I entreat thee...ask you (singular, vs the plural in v1 and v2)

true yokefellow...a genuine co-yoked colleague (singular)

There is one genuine yoke – that of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

The co-yoked

1. Jesus Christ
2. His Body, genuine believers/followers
 - Paul
 - Phil 1:1 The saints at Philippi and the bishops and deacons
 - Phil 4:1 my brethren, the saints at Philippi
 - as one Body
 - thee/you (singular)

help

1. those women which labored with me in the Gospel
 - 1st mention: the women who were vital to the work of the Lord
 - Euodias and Syntyche
 - many unnamed others
2. Clement
 - Clement of Rome who studied under the Apostle Peter and was an eyewitness of the Apostles John and Paul
3. other my fellowlaborers
 - All the others who were behind the scenes in the great and continuing work of the Holy Spirit to seek and save the lost, gathering a Bride for the Son

Every ministry = few faces + a multitude of workers behind the scenes
ALL are equally important!
All share equally in the rewards!
1 Sam 30:9-10, 21-24

The Lord of the harvest uses many workers in

1. events of salvation (worked in)
2. the processes of sanctification (worked out)

All workers have beautiful feet

Rom 10:15 How beautiful are the feet of them that
preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad
tidings of good things!

All workers share equally in the fruits/rewards of the work

All workers have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life

- all passed The Test – believed/trusted/leaned on God
- all made the right choice – Life

rejoice because your names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20)

Echoed by the Holy Spirit thru the Apostle Paul

v4 Rejoice in the Lord always...with our heart and mind focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and his over-abounding love (knowing that our names are written in His Book of Life),

- be of good cheer at all times in this perishing world, during our few days that are full of trouble (Job 14:1)
- be joyful, a spiritual state of mind that transcends worldly circumstances

Be not crushed or discouraged by difficult or painful circumstances in this world, live “above” them

Rom 8:28-39

God is working everything for good for those...

ending in “glorified” (Phil 3:21a)

Since God be for us, who can be against us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Nothing and no one, we are more than conquerors in Jesus!

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

1 John 5:4-5

As more than conquerors, we have overcome the world by our faith that Jesus is the Son of God Who has overcome the world!

again I say, Rejoice...it bears repeating, it must be emphasized – Rejoice!

So says the prisoner of Christ in a Roman prison

So says King David after

- committing adultery and murder
- confessing and repenting of his sin
- being forgiven by God

Ps 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye *that are* upright in heart.

So says Jesus Himself

Matt 5:10-12 *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

This is a very good letter to read/study to get a boost of joy!

v5 Let your moderation...gentleness, patience, mercy (all elements of forgiveness)
be known...experienced by
unto all men...without exception, even our enemies (Matt 5:44-48, Rom 12:17-21)

Let our Christ-likeness be seen by all,
Light shining in the darkness
Living ambassadors of the Good News of grace and hope in Christ
Let not anyone see wrath or condemnation or judgmentalism
James 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God

Be very generous in forgiving others!

Matt 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

After enduring the greatest shame, the greatest injustice!

Col 3:12-15

Be very generous in forgiving because the field is white already for harvest!

The Lord is at hand...the imminent return of Jesus Christ to earth, taught and held onto
from the earliest days of the Church to this very day (by the remnant)

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

And those things all are in motion in this generation for the first time!

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Rom 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

1 John 2:28 – 3:3

v6 Be careful...anxious, worried, stressed out, fearful
for nothing...zero zippo zilch without exception
but in every thing...always, all (and all means all)
by prayer and supplication...worship and requests
with thanksgiving...with gratitude, which comes with joy/rejoicing
(don't forget this vital part!)

Remember: rejoice because your names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20)
let your requests be made known into God...give it to the Lord

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that
he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for
he careth for you.

Be not proud: "I got this, Lord."

He humble: "Help me Lord! You got this!"

Pray

Matt 6:6-8 up close and personal

Matt 6:25-34

Matt 7:7-11

James 4:2b-3 ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not,
because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your
lusts.

Pray believing!

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,
when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall
have *them*.

with thanksgiving

Psalms 32:1 Blessed *is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do,
that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask
any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

John 15:16b whatsoever ye shall ask of **the Father** in my name, he may
give it you.

John 16:23-24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the
Father in my name, **he** will give *it* you. Hitherto have ye
asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that
your **joy may be full**.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we
ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if
we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that
we have the petitions that we desired of him.

v7 and the peace of God...the quietness of soul found in the presence of God and in the will
 of God
which passes all understanding...surpasses all human understanding

Just as does the love of Christ
Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,
 that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

The love of Christ and the peace of God surpass ALL human understanding.
Even the brightest philosophers like Plato and Aristotle
Even the brightest scientists like Albert Einstein, Carl Sagan, Stephen Hawking
Most certainly the “enlightened” Carl Jung, Sigmund Freud, Voltaire, Rousseau

Jer 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and
 knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness,
 judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I
 delight, saith the LORD.

shall keep...protect from hostile attack in a hostile place

your hearts and minds...our new hearts and right minds

Ezk 36:26 A new heart also will I give you (by grace thru faith), and a new
 spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out
 of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Mark 5:15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the
 devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right
 mind: and they were afraid.

New hearts and right minds are connected
We believe/trust in our heart

Rom 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
 and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him
 from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man
 believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth
 confession is made unto salvation.

Our minds (the “Thinker”, the Command Center, the battleground) are
transformed and renewed by the Word and Spirit of God

Is 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:
 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as
 snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as
 wool.

Rom 12:2 from sight to faith, from flesh to Spirit

Rom 10:17

through Christ Jesus...*en*, “in”, “a position”

John 14:1 **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me.**

v8 Finally...Besides, Additionally
whatsoever things...all things

- true...Truth, devoid of deception and falsehoods
- honest...honor-able
- just...equitable
- pure...undefiled, perfectly clean
- lovely...friendly towards us (our new hearts and right minds)
- of good report...reputable, well-spoken

if any

- virtue...excellence (Mark 5:30)
- praise...commendable

think on these things

Since the world is not our friend and since Rom 3:10 and Rom 7:18 and Rom 3:23,

Who are we left with to think on?

Jesus, the Living Word of God, described in this verse

Think on Jesus, meditate on the Word of God

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Ps 119:48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

Ps 119:97 O how love I thy law! *it is* my meditation all the day.

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ps 104:33-34 I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

v9 The church at Philippi learned and received these things from the Apostle Paul as they heard and watched him live his life before God and man, a talking AND walking example of a follower of Jesus Christ

Now, after “learned” and “received” comes...”do”, active faith, obedience

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Truth is heard AND seen (harmony and peace with word and deed)
It is sweet and easy to receive
Hypocrisy is that which is heard AND NOT seen (conflict and antagonism)
It is galling and putrid to our new hearts and right minds

The world is utterly hypocritical
Wherein is no peace
The Lord Jesus Christ is Truth
Wherein is the peace of God

By doing/obeying (faith in action, genuine faith), the God of peace will be with us
The peace of God comes by obedience (faith in action)
With obedience (faith in action) comes the peace of God

The flip side of the coin is equally true
If not obeying, cannot expect the peace of God
If there is no peace of God, obedience is missing

In this world we will have tribulation, difficult and overwhelming and crushing circumstances

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Relationship stress/fracture/losses
- Financial pressures
- Loss of a loved one

The tribulations of this world continually bombard us with

- fear...but fear not (2 Tim 1:7)
- discouragement...but be of good courage
- temptation to sin...but Matt 16:24
- “the dark side” of life...but Phil 3:12-14

Don't give any time or space to those things in your new heart and right mind

There should be “no room in the inn” for the things of the world when we fill our new hearts and right minds with Jesus Christ

Phil 4:4-9

Ps 63:1-8
