

Philippians 4**MONDAY: Read Philippians 4**

What idea, verse or truth impresses you most in this chapter? Why? *Pray that you (& we) learn to depend on the Spirit for understanding and applying God's truths to our changing lives.*

TUESDAY: Read Philippians 4:1-8

Paul exhorts church members in Philippi to ***“stand firm in the Lord.”*** Discuss the four related issues Paul identifies for standing firm in Jesus (***2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9***). With which issue do you struggle most? With which does our church struggle? *Pray that the Spirit teaches you (us) all the truths & realities of living as new creatures in genuine community with one another.*

WEDNESDAY: Read Philippians 4:6-9

Paul identifies 2 choices we must make in order to live in God's peace. What are these 2 choices? What would you say to correct Christians who think they are *“born worriers?”* How does worry relate to peace? How does fixing your thoughts help you practice godly living? Is God's peace with you? *Ask Spirit to help you experience His always-present peace by refusing worry and degenerative thinking.*

THURSDAY: Read Philippians 4:10-14

How does Paul know that this church is concerned for him again (***14***)? Can you relate to Paul's experience with contentment? What makes being contented so difficult? Do you think contentment is more about an internal choice, and external condition, or both? What does Paul mean when he says he ***“can do all things thru Christ who gives him strength?”*** *Spend time thanking God for embracing us in His life & love, and making spiritual maturity, peace and contentment available to us at all times.*

FRIDAY: Read Philippians 4:15-20

Paul is appreciative of their tangible support for 2 reasons. Can you name them? Can you relate a time when you ***“received a reward for your kindness?”*** How does understanding our roles as stewards of all & owners of nothing help us rely on God? *Pray that you (we) will learn greater dependence on God*

SATURDAY: Read Philippians 1 – 4

Rewrite the overall themes for the book and each chapter. Would you be willing to spend the time to memorize these verses? *Ask Spirit to help you memorize these portions of scripture to know this book.*

PHILIPPIANS 4 (NLT)

1) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

Words of Encouragement

2) Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. **3)** And I ask you, my true partner (Sysygnus if proper name; otherwise, probable refers to Epaphroditus), to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

4) Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! **5)** Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. **6)** Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. **7)** Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8) And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. **9)** Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Paul's Thanks for Their Gifts

10) How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. **11)** Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. **12)** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **13)** For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. **14)** Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

15) As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. **16)** Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. **17)** I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

18) At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. **19)** And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

20) Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.

Paul's Final Greetings

21) Give my greetings to each of God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. **22)** And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household.

23) May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.