

## ***Paul's Appeal To Have The Peace Of Christ (4:1-22)***

### ***Christ Is The Power Over Circumstances***

The source of power for Christian living is Christ.

#### ***Peace With The Brethren***

*Philippians 4:1-3: Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

*Therefore: our citizenship is in heaven; we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; will transform the body; into conformity with the body of His glory; He has even to subject all things to Himself*

The Philippian believers brought great joy to Paul during his life and were seen as a reward for him in heaven. In stark contrast to unfaithful leaders and deceptive teachers, one of the ways Paul's genuine love for the believers in Philippi, as well as other churches, was demonstrated was through his strong desire to fellowship with them (verse 3:17: "*following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us*"). Furthermore, Paul genuinely cared for the believers in every aspect of their lives and felt a deep sense of responsibility to instruct and encourage them in the Lord. He fervently encouraged the Philippians to "stand firm in the Lord." ***Ephesians 6:10-14; Colossians 1:9-12***

***Ephesians 6:10-14: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,***

***Colossians 1:9-12: For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.***

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Evidently, there was a disagreement or conflict between Euodia (yoo-OH-dih-uh) and Syntyche (SIN-ti-kee) that was causing problems within the church. Paul recognized that such conflicts were not only detrimental to the individuals involved but also had a destructive and disruptive impact on the entire church community. In an effort to address and resolve the issue, Paul publicly addresses both women and urges them to find a resolution, even seeking the assistance of other believers if necessary. Paul skillfully avoids taking sides, focusing instead on the need for reconciliation and unity among them. The specific details of the dispute or who may be at fault were irrelevant; what mattered was their willingness to pursue peace and restoration. ***Romans 12:16-18; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Peter 3:8-12***

***Romans 12:16-18: Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.***

***2 Corinthians 13:11: Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.***

***Galatians 6:1: Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.***

***Ephesians 4:1-3: Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

***Philippians 2:1-4: Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.***

***1 Peter 3:8-9: To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.***

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No one, in their human nature, is immune to such problems – we all encounter them. Euodia and Syntyche, along with Clement, were actively involved in the work of the church, yet the two ladies had allowed their conflict to hinder their walk with God and testimony. As believers, it is our responsibility to support one another in maintaining unity within the faith and resolving conflicts. This often calls for extending a helping hand and approaching situations with humility, emphasizing the importance of preserving unity. *1 Corinthians 8:13; Philemon 12-14; 1 John 5:16; Jude 22-23*

*1 Corinthians 8:13: Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.*

*Philemon 12-14: I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, 13 whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel; 14 but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.*

*1 John 5:16: If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.*

*Jude 22-23: And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.*

### ***Joy: the source of power***

*Philippians 4:4-5: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. NASU*

The joy of Christians, their rejoicing, is not dependent on external circumstances but rather rooted in their relationship with the Lord. We rejoice because we are united with Christ. Paul's statement carries an imperative tone, highlighting that joy is not an optional characteristic for Christians. It is a commanded attitude, and to emphasize its significance, the Holy Spirit repeats the command. *Nehemiah 8:10; Romans 12:9-13; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13*

*Nehemiah 8:10: Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

*Romans 12:9-13: Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

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*James 1:2-4: Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

*1 Peter 4:12-13: Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.*

*5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. NASU*

In verse 5, Paul urges believers to be mindful of their attitude. We are called to consider how our demeanor is perceived by others, both within and outside the church ("*all men*"). Christians are encouraged to possess and display a gentle and gracious spirit, something that is desirable for all people. Our attitude has a direct impact on our testimony and witness. We are called to walk in the Lord in a manner that reflects our character, which is always visible to others. This should not be in an ostentatious manner but rather we should walk in a humble and genuine way, avoiding any show of arrogance or self-importance. *Matthew 5:43-46; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Titus 3:1-2*

*Matthew 5:43-46: "You have heard that it was said, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"*

*1 Corinthians 9:25-27: Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

*Titus 3:1-3: Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. 3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

Once again, Paul emphasizes his expectation of the Lord's imminent return. Joy and moderation should be a guiding principle for Christians, encompassing a disciplined life exudes joy while exercising restraint in various areas such as passions, attire, consumption of food and drink, and control of temper. Christians are called to avoid any form of excess. The anticipation of the Lord's return should significantly impact the attitudes and actions of believers, prompting us to have a proper disposition characterized by joy, grace, gentleness, and meekness. *1 Thessalonians 5:2-6; James 5:8-9; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 4:7-10; 2 Peter 3:8-16; Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 20*

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*1 Thessalonians 5:2-6: For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*

*James 5:8-9: You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.*

*Hebrews 10:23-25: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

*1 Peter 4:7-10: The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

*2 Peter 3:8-9: But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

*Revelation 3:11: "I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

*Revelation 22:7: "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."*

*Revelation 22:20: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

### ***Prayer: the secret of Power***

*Philippians 4:6-7: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NASU*

Paul's instructions to rejoice always, pray about everything, and not worry about anything are all-encompassing. There are no exceptions to rejoicing, praying, and avoiding worry. However, it's important to note that Paul is not suggesting that we should ignore the realities of life, pretend that everything is perfect, or deny the existence of sin in the world. Instead, he encourages us to bring everything, including our concerns, fears, and challenges, to the Lord in prayer. We are invited to have an open and honest dialogue with God, seeking His guidance, comfort, and peace in all circumstances. *Daniel 3:15-17; Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 5:6-7*

*Daniel 3:15-17: "Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*

*Matthew 6:25: "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"*

*Matthew 6:33-34: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Peter 5:6-7: Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

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A seventeenth-century Roman Catholic Frenchman named Francois Fenelon said:

*Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a friend. Tell Him your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that He may sober them; tell Him your longings, that He may purify them; tell Him your dislikes, that He may help you to conquer them; show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved tastes for evil, your instability. Tell Him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself and others.*

*If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles there will be in lack of what to say. You will never exhaust the subject. it is continually being renewed. People who have no secrets from each other never want for subjects of conversation. They do not weigh their words, for there is nothing to be held back; neither do they seek for something to say. They talk out of the abundance of the heart, without consideration they say just what they think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved intercourse with God*

We are encouraged to bring everything to God in prayer, having the assurance that He always hears and answers us. In our prayers, it is important to express gratitude to God for His anticipated answers even as we present our requests to Him. While God does answer the prayers of His children, it is important to acknowledge that His response may not always align with our desires. Sometimes His answer may be a "no" or a "not now," and we may struggle to accept His response. Nonetheless, we can trust that God's answers are always in accordance with His perfect wisdom and love for us. ***Luke 11:9-11; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2-4***

***Luke 11:9-13: "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. 11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"***

***Ephesians 6:18: With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,***

***Colossians 4:2-4: Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.***

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Through prayer, God imparts His indescribable peace to us—a peace that surpasses human comprehension and transcends the understanding of the world. This divine peace acts as a guardian, protecting our hearts and minds. When we bring our problems, concerns, and issues to the Lord in prayer, this peace enables us to rejoice in all circumstances and situations. By praying about everything, we free ourselves from worry and redirect our attention and thoughts to the overwhelming and irresistible power of God. When we try to carry our burdens on our own without seeking God in prayer, we miss out on the profound peace that comes from Him. *1 Samuel 1:14-18; Proverbs 3:5-8; John 14:27; Romans 5:1-2; 8:5-8*

*1 Samuel 1:14-18: Then Eli said to her, "How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you." 15 But Hannah replied, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 "Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation." 17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him." 18 She said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.*

*Proverbs 3:5-8: Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.*

*John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

*Rom 5:1-2: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

*Romans 8:5-8: For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Peace with God — sins forgiven

Peace of God — tranquility; assurance of salvation

We enter prayer in worry and can come out in peace, if we truly give over our concerns and issues to the Lord, if we trust in Him for His provisions and His faithfulness. *Psalm 34:6-7; 55:22; Matthew 6:5-8; Hebrews 4:15-16*



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*Psalms 34:6-7: This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.*

*Psalms 55:22: Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.*

*Matthew 6:5-8: "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*

*Hebrews 4:15-16: For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Paul does not claim that prayer will miraculously stop or calm the storms of life. He acknowledges that our external situations and circumstances may not change, and in fact, they might even continue to deteriorate from our perspective. However, the transformative power of prayer lies in the change it brings within the believer. Prayer has the ability to change our hearts, our perspective, and our response to the storms we face. It grants us inner strength, resilience, and a deep sense of peace, even amid difficult circumstances. Though the external world may remain the same, the believer is transformed from within, equipped to face life's challenges with faith and hope. *2 Chronicles 33:10-13; Psalm 55:16-18; 62:8; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; Ephesians 3:14-21*

*2 Chronicles 33:10-13: The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. 11 Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze chains and took him to Babylon. 12 When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. 13 When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.*

*Psalms 55:16-18: As for me, I shall call upon God, And the LORD will save me. 17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice. 18 He will redeem my soul in peace from the battle which is against me, For they are many who strive with me.*

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*Psalms 62:8: Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.*

*2 Corinthians 1:8-11: For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, 11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.*

*Ephesians 3:14-21: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*