

- Rev. Grant Mangold, Riverside Evangelical Free Church, [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

## EVERYTHING ?

Can you spot three amazing "things" in Philippians 4:4-9 about God's peace? It's all about the "mind of Christ" which is a theme of Philippians.

Last time, in verses 4-6 we learned how to experience Christ's supernatural peace by replacing anxious thoughts with prayers. **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."** This replacement results in Philippians 4:7, **"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, WILL guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

This wonderful promise can be true for you in the midst of trying times, because that peace is Christ Himself, who protects you in every storm and trial. Isaiah 26:3 says **"You keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because He trusts in You."**

Jesus says in John 14, **"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."** The context of this passage is how Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to believers to lead us into God's truth, through Scripture. The apostle Paul echoes this in Colossians 3:15, **"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."**

As you replace anxious thoughts with earnest prayer, you turn your heart and mind and will to the Lord. And instead of focusing on all your problems, you focus on Almighty God. To have the peace of Christ goes against what any natural person would expect. It comes from turning everything over to the Lord, rejoicing in Christ, reasoning with the mind of Christ, agreeing in Christ.

Often we read just verses 4-7 in Philippians 4, as we seek the promise of supernatural peace. But the passage continues in verses 8-9 to expand on just how this can be. **"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."**

There it is. In prayer, replace anxiety with truth. Replace anxious thoughts with true thoughts. Each of the words in verse 8 describes our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. True. Honorable. Just. Pure. Lovely. Commendable. Excellent. Worthy of praise. That's Jesus!

Think about such things, and you'll be thinking about Jesus! For believers, you are in Christ and Christ is in you! It is through Jesus you bring requests to the Throne of Grace in heaven. He knows all things and can do all things, and He promises to work in you and through you and for you. He has begun His good work, and promises to complete it, in His time. He is the Prince of Peace who gives His peace.

The Apostle Paul adds his personal testimony to the truth of these things in verse 9, **"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me -- practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."** Paul says, I'm not dwelling on the dungeon I'm in. I'm rejoicing in the Lord, because through my trials more people are coming to trust in Jesus too. They see His peace in my life - something I cannot manufacture. It can only come from Him.

You want the **"peace of God that surpasses all understanding"**? Paul says, then practice what you've learned from me and seen in me, as I talk the talk and walk the walk. AND then, he says, the **"God of peace will be with you."** This doesn't happen by breathing a quick prayer, then continuing to worry for God. You'll know Him and His peace as you obey His scriptures.

Did you spot the wonderful word-play in this passage? 1, don't be anxious for **"anyTHING"**... 2, Take **"everyTHING"** to the Lord in prayer... 3, practice **"these THINGS"**... Then you will know the **"peace of God"** AND the **"God of peace"** will be with you.

Want peace? Change your thinking according to the truth of Scripture, and the "mind of Christ." That's how YOU can grow stronger in the storms of life. That's "real life." And that's how you can show & tell the joy of the Lord and the Lord of peace, to everyone around you.