

Monday, 26 October 2015

Philippians 4:4-7 [1]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

To rejoice is far more than a quiet, self-contained joy; it is to let that joy bubble out in every circumstance. It is that sense of rejoicing in all circumstances that enabled Horatio Spafford to write the great hymn, "It is Well with My Soul" after learning that his four daughters had been lost at sea. It is the conviction that our Lord is in control of ALL things and we have nothing to fear. No fretting! Rejoice in the Lord always!

Tuesday, 27 October 2015

Philippians 4:4-7 [2]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.** The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I have always found this sentence to be something of a disconnect. Why does Paul throw this statement in between an instruction to let my joy show and an assurance the Lord is nearby? The definition of reasonableness helps: the state of having good sense and sound judgment. He is advising me to be known as a man who is consistently confident, demonstrating sound judgment in all aspects of my life and showing a mature reliance on the validity of my faith. That's a goal that I am still striving for.

Wednesday, 28 October 2015

Philippians 4:4-7 [3]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. **The Lord is at hand;** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is available to me now and always. I can have an absolute surety that He will never leave me nor forsake me. This promise and the next phrase are the fulcra upon which all the other portions of this passage are brought into balance.

Thursday, 29 October 2015

Philippians 4:4-7 [4]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; **do not be anxious about anything,** but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Interesting that Strong's Greek Dictionary indicates that the word translated here as anxious as taking thought. To put it in the vernacular, don't give it a thought. No fretting! No singing the blues! No laying awake at night and scheming to develop possible solutions! The Lord has got my back.

Friday, 30 October 2015

Philippians 4:4-7 [5]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus.

Catch that? All my "gimmes" are to be wrapped in thanksgiving. In reality, I have no business presenting a list of "gimmes" to the Lord, I need to be continuously thanking him that all my needs are satisfied. Not my wants which tend to be colored by greed and covetousness, but trusting Him to meet those requests that represent what is best for me. I should never read Jeremiah 29:11 without hearing that thunderous voice of the Almighty saying, "Trust Me."

Saturday, 31 October 2015
Philippians 4:4-7 [6]

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

Ka-ching! Not the prosperity gospel but the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. This is the peace that enabled Horatio Spafford to write, the same peace that is mine when I live according to those four short but precious verses.

Lord's Day, November 1, 2015

Psalms 119:111

Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

Never failing grace and mercy, Your love endures forever. Your word is the source of that pervasive sense of well-being that is a characteristic of one who has accepted You as Lord and Master. That is the joy of my heart.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



October 26-November 1, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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