

Monday, 4 May 2015

Philippians 4:4-8

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. Finally, brothers, 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.

If you ask what does this passage have to do with believe/faith/trust/commit/obey, my answer is "Everything, this is practical faith. This is where the rubber meets the road. This is transformation."

Years ago, Betty and I were listening to a series of lectures on prayer during a trip to see family and one was by Dallas Willard. One of his recommendations was to commit this to memory; which we did for the last few hours of the drive. I have never regretted that time spent for this has stood me in good stead ever since. (Well, I do get a bit out of order when I get to the 'whatevers'.)

Lord, lead into a fuller understanding of the transformation that results from obedience to this Scripture. Let it permeate my soul so that the aroma of the joy of the Kingdom is evident to all.

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Tuesday, 5 May 2015

Philippians 4:4-8

**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. Finally, brothers, 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.

It has been fairly recently that I have begun to understand that these two sentences are inextricably intertwined. It is only that as the joy-filled soul lives out that joy, that the gentle reasonableness, recommended by Peter in 1 Peter 3:15, is evident to all.

Lord, send Your Spirit to remind me of all that You have said especially when I get grumpy about something that did not go as I thought it should. I repent of those many times when I have not acknowledged that **all things** are controlled by You and are evidence of Your love for me. I must rejoice in You always.

Wednesday, 6 May 2015

Philippians 4:4-8

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. Finally, brothers, 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.

Now two phrases that cannot be separated. My paraphrase is I am freed from anxiety because the Lord is at hand. There is also a recognition that I am not to fall prey to anxiety in recognition that the Lord is in control. Isn't it ludicrous that a feeble man thinks he can solve something by stewing and fussing when the LORD, God the Almighty says, "Trust me, I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Lord, once more, I acknowledge that my self centered compulsion and delusion to believe that I am in control and able to resolve anything is sin, grievous sin, sin of pride and idolatry. Continue, Lord, the pruning process.

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Thursday, 7 May 2015

Philippians 4:4-8

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. Finally, brothers, 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.

The foresight takes my breath away. The Lord knows that the old man loves to stew and fret, but He says I've got a better way. You devote yourself to prayer and supplication, slathered with thanksgiving, and I will take over. Another thing that happens is that the claymore of Psalm 149:6 goes into action when I fill my mouth with praise of the Almighty.

Lord, I can either stew and fret or pray and praise--and it is my choice to be disobedient or obedient. Continue, dear Lord, to transform me into a praying and praising child of the King. How I long for the day that my immediate response to problem or blessing is praise, thanksgiving and prayer.

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Friday, 8 May 2015

Philippians 4:4-8

*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.** Finally, brothers, 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.*

The peace of God, that ineffable, totally beyond description, there are no words, peace will stand between me and discouragement. It is a promise of the Holy One who cannot lie. Conditional? Yes! I have to be in a rejoicing, praising and thanksgiving state. Or to put it another way, I have to choose to obey.

Lord, I pray for that state of Your peace for myself, but also for all that I minister to in the prisons. Lord, fill me with the message of hope to carry to the hope-less, the message of joy to the joy-less, the message of salvation to the saved-less and the message of love to the love-less.

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*Saturday, 9 May 2015  
Philippians 4:4-8*

*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. **Finally, brothers, 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.***

Lord, continue to work a transformation in my spiritual DNA. Change me from one whose thoughts naturally gravitate towards the complete and total opposite of the directive to one whose passion is the true, the honorable, the just, the pure, the lovely, the commendable, the excellent and the praiseworthy.

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*Lord's Day, 10 May 2015 Psalm 119:75*

I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

You trim and prune me, shaping me into the form, the image that Your desire. I know and accept that those afflictions are being used to transform me from one degree of glory to another. Lord, teach me to revel in the discipline for You are using it to declare to the world that You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords. My reason for being is to demonstrate Your glory and praise Your Name forever.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Psalms*



*May 4-10, 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](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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