

“JOYFUL IN ALL THINGS”
PHILIPPIANS 4:1-23

Because of the grace of being in Christ, we can have peace and contentment in all things.

After planting the church in Philippi during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40), Paul now writes to them ten years later from Roman imprisonment. Amazingly, he is not discouraged but joyful! In fact, the word “joy” appears fourteen times in these four short chapters. *In this passage, Paul concludes his letter by reminding the Philippians of the gospel virtues he has encouraged them to cultivate throughout the letter. In doing so, he reminds them, and the church today, that because the joy of being in Christ, we can have peace in all things (vv. 1-9) and be content in all things (vv. 10-23).*

APPLYING THE WORD

Read Philippians 4:1-23 aloud and pray that the Lord will apply this passage to your group.

Introductory Question: Growing up as a child, what virtues did your family try to instill in you?

The Joy of Having Peace in All Things (vv. 1-9)

- What threatens our unity today and how does pursuing like-mindedness rescue us from disunity (vv. 1-3)?
- In a hostile and angry world, why are joy and gentleness a needed witness for the gospel today (vv. 4-5)?
- Between the three ingredients of gospel praying (vv. 6-7), thinking (v. 8), and living (v. 9), which one do you most need to practice today in order to have the peace of God in all things (vv. 6-9)? Why?

The Joy of Being Content in All Things (vv. 10-23)

- Where are you tempted to forget that contentment is in Christ and not in your circumstances (vv. 10-13)?
- Do you find it harder to find contentment in Christ when times are good or hard? Why is that? (vv. 10-13)?
- Like the Philippians, how does the generous heart of God move you to generous living (vv. 14-23)?

PRAYING THE WORD

Philippians 4:1-23 prompts us to pray for gospel virtues. As you pray this passage, ask someone to pray that we would pursue joy, unity, and gentleness in an angry and fragmented world (vv. 1-5). Ask someone to pray that we would strive after the peace of God and gospel content in all things (vv. 6-13). Finally, ask someone to pray that we would live graciously and generously as God has been gracious and generous toward us through Christ (vv. 14-23).

STAYING IN THE STORY

Day 1	Praying for and pursuing unity as the people of God (vv. 1-3; Psalm 133)
Day 2	The gentleness of Christ’s heart toward us (vv. 4-5; Matthew 11:28-30)
Day 3	Pursuing the kingdom of God in an anxious world (vv. 6-9; Matthew 6:25-34)
Day 4	Praying for and pursuing contentment in our lives (vv. 10-13; Ephesians 1:15-23)
Day 5	The generous heart of God makes us generous givers (vv. 14-23; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)