

PHILIPPIANS 4

The Secret of Peace and Contentment in Messiah

1 Therefore, my beloved (ἀγαπητοὶ) and longed for (ἐπιπόθητος) brothers and sisters,¹ my joy (χαρά) and crown (στέφανος),² in this way keep standing firm (στήκω, pres.)³ in the Lord, beloved ones (ἀγαπητοὶ).⁴

Reconcile Euodia and Syntyche

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind (τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖν)⁵ in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, true yoke-fellow (γνήσιε σύζυγε) [Eraphroditus?], help these women, for they have struggled side by side (συναθλέω, pres.)⁶ in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers (συνεργός), whose names are in the book of life.

The Secret of Peace

4 Keep rejoicing (χαίρω, pres.) in the Lord⁷ always. Again I will say, keep rejoicing (χαίρω, pres.)!⁸ 5 Let your courtesy (ἐπιεικῆς)⁹ be known to everyone. The Lord is near.¹⁰ 6 Do not be

¹ **Php 1:12** 12 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. **Php 3:1** 1 Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. **Php 3:13** 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. **Php 3:17** 17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me.... **Php 4:8** 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true....

² **1 Th 2:19-20** 19 ... What is our hope, joy, or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you [the Thessalonian believers]? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

³ **Php 1:27** 27 ... That I may hear of you that you are standing firm (στήκω, pres.) in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. **1 Co 16:13** 13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

⁴ **Php 2:12** 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

⁵ **Php 2:2** 2 Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **Php 2:5** 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Messiah Jesus.... **Php 3:15** 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way....

⁶ **Php 1:27** 27 ... Standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side (συναθλέω, pres.) for the faith of the gospel....

⁷ Messiah Jesus is the sphere in which the believer is to rejoice (Lightner, *BKC*, 2:663).

⁸ **1 Th 5:16** 16 Rejoice always.

⁹ “[N]ot insisting on every right of letter of law or custom, *yielding, gentle, kind, courteous, tolerant*” (*BDAG*, 371). Inductive Bible study discussion creates reasonable believers. One realizes one doesn’t know everything and that there are different viewpoints. One listens more than he speaks. One learns how to accept the legitimate views others. One becomes a better listener and a more reasonable brother or sister.

¹⁰ The imminence of Jesus is the basis for the believer’s joy, thanksgiving, and peace.

anxious (μεριμνάω, pres.)¹¹ about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving (εὐχαριστία)¹² let your requests keep being made known (γνωρίζω, pres. pass.) to God. 7 And the peace (εἰρήνη)¹³ of God that surpasses (ὑπερέχω, pres.) all understanding (νοῦς) will guard (φρουρέω, fut.)¹⁴ your hearts (καρδία) and your minds (νόημα) in Messiah Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true (ἀληθής),¹⁵ whatever is honorable (σεμνός),¹⁶ whatever is just (δίκαιος),¹⁷ whatever is pure (ἄγνός), whatever is pleasing (προσφιλής),¹⁸ whatever is commendable (εὐφημος),¹⁹ if there is any excellence (ἀρετή)²⁰ and if there is anything worthy of praise (ἔπαινος),²¹ keep thinking about (λογίζομαι, pres.)²² these things. 9 Keep on practicing (πράσσω, pres.)²³ the things that you have learned, received, heard, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Secret of Contentment

10 I rejoice (χαίρω, aor. pass.)²⁴ in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it. 11 Not

¹¹ “[T]o be apprehensive, have anxiety, be anxious, be (unduly) concerned” (BDAG, 632). **Php 2:20** 20 I [Paul] have no one like [Timothy], who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **2 Co 11:28** 28 Apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me [Paul] of my anxiety for all the churches. **Mt 6:31-33** 31 Do not be anxious saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

¹² “[T]he expression or content of gratitude, *the rendering of thanks, thanksgiving*” (BDAG, 416). **Ps 9:1** 1 I will give thanks to Yahweh with my whole heart. I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

¹³ **Ps 119:165** 165 Great peace have those who love your law. Nothing can make them stumble. **Is 26:3** 3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. **Ga 5:22-23** 22 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace....

¹⁴ **1 Pe 1:5** 5 ... Who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

¹⁵ “(1) [P]ert. to being truthful and honest, *truthful, righteous, honest*.... (2) pert. to being in accordance with fact, *true*” (BDAG, 43).

¹⁶ “[W]orthy of respect/honor, noble, dignified, serious.... honorable, worthy, venerable, holy, above reproach” (BDAG, 919).

¹⁷ “[O]bligatory in view of certain requirements of justice, *right, fair, equitable*” (BDAG, 247).

¹⁸ “[P]ert. to causing pleasure or delight, *pleasing, agreeable, lovely, amiable*” (BDAG, 886).

¹⁹ “[P]raiseworthy, commendable” (BDAG, 414).

²⁰ “[U]ncommon character worthy of praise, excellence of character, exceptional civic virtue” (BDAG, 130).

²¹ “[T]he act of expressing admiration or approval, *praise, approval, recognition*” (BDAG, 357).

²² “[T]o give careful thought to a matter, think (about), consider, ponder, let one’s mind dwell on” (BDAG, 598).

²³ **Php 2:12-13** 12 ... Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to desire and to work for his good pleasure.

²⁴ **Php 4:4**.

that I am referring to being in need.²⁵ For I have learned (μανθάνω, aor.) to be content (αὐτάρκης)²⁶ with whatever²⁷ I have. 12 I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret (μυέω, perf.)²⁸ of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. 13 I can do all things by means of the one who goes on strengthening (ἐνδυναμώω, pres.)²⁹ me.³⁰

Thank You for Your Partnership

14 In any case, it was correct (καλῶς) for you to co-participate (συγκοινωνέω) in my distress (θλίψις).³¹ 15 You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church participated (κοινωνέω, aor.) with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone.³² 16 For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent for my need (χρεία) more than once. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit (καρπός)³³ that keeps increasing (πλεονάζω, pres.)³⁴ into your (pl.) account (λόγος).³⁵ 18 I have been paid in full and have more than enough.³⁶ I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering,³⁷ a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to

²⁵ Paul did not beg churches to help him. He just placed the need before them and trusted God to meet it (Lightner, *BKC*, 2:664).

²⁶ “[C]ontent, self-sufficient” (*BDAG*, 152).

²⁷ Changing circumstances did not affect Paul’s inner contentment (Lightner, *BKC*, 2:664).

²⁸ “[T].t. of the mystery religions *initiate (into the mysteries)*” (*BDAG*, 660).

²⁹ “[T]o cause one to be able to function or do someth., *strengthen*” (*BDAG*, 333). **1 Ti 1:12** 12 I thank him who has given me strength, Messiah Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service. **2 Ti 4:17** 17 The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the nations might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth.

³⁰ Paul’s point is antithetical to the prosperity gospel (Wilkin).

³¹ **Jas 2:15-16** 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them: Go in peace—keep warm and eat your fill, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

³² In the very beginning (Ac 16), when Paul left Macedonia, the Philippians alone financially supported him. And again when Paul was in Thessalonica (Ac 17:1), the Philippians sent him aid twice. The Philippians also contributed funds for the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. **Ro 15:26** 26 ...Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. The generosity of the Macedonians was a model to other churches (2 Co 8-9).

³³ **Php 1:11** 11 ...Filled with the fruit (καρπός) of righteousness that comes through Jesus Messiah, to the glory and praise of God.

³⁴ “[T]o become more and more, so as to be in abundance, be/become more or be/become great, be present in abundance, grow, increase” (*BDAG*, 824).

³⁵ **Mt 6:20-21** 20 Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Every act of Christian ministry develops and enriches him who performs it” (Vincent).

³⁶ **Ac 28:30** 30 He lived there [in Rome] two whole years at his own expense....

³⁷ **Eph 5:2** 2 Walk in love, as Messiah loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

God. 19 And my God will fully supply (πληρώω, fut.) every need (χρεία)³⁸ of yours according to his riches (πλοῦτος)³⁹ in glory in Messiah Jesus.

Final Greetings

20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

21 Greet every saint in Messiah Jesus. The friends who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those from Caesar's household (οἱ ἐκ τῆς Καίσαρος οἰκίας).⁴⁰ 23 The grace (χάρις)⁴¹ of the Lord Jesus Messiah be with your (pl.) [human] spirit.

³⁸ Food, clothing, shelter.

³⁹ “[P]lentiful supply of someth., a wealth, abundance” (BDAG, 836).

⁴⁰ This signifies “the whole menage of the imperial residence—slaves, freedmen, household servants, and the dependents, possibly some of high rank” (Vincent, 153). **Php 1:13** 13 It has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Messiah. **Ac 27:24** 24 [The angel] said, Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar.

⁴¹ **1 Co 16:23** 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. **Phm 25** 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Messiah be with your spirit.

Biblical Worldview

1. God.

- a. We are to continually let our requests be made known to God (Php 4:6).
- b. God's peace surpasses all human understanding (Php 4:7).
- c. God's peace will guard our hearts and minds (Php 4:7).
- d. God is a God of peace. (Php 4:9).
- e. If we follow Paul's example, the God of peace will be with us (Php 4:9).
- f. Our financial gifts to Christians in need are a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God (Php 4:18).
- g. God will supply every need of ours in Messiah Jesus (Php 4:19).
- h. God has riches in glory (Php 4:19).
- i. God is our Father (Php 4:20).
- j. God deserves glory forever and ever (Php 4:20).

2. Jesus.

- a. We are to stand firm in the Lord Jesus (Php 4:1).
- b. We are to entreat one another to agree in the Lord Jesus (Php 4:2).
- c. We are to rejoice in the Lord Jesus always (Php 4:4).
- d. The Lord Jesus is at hand (Php 4:5).
- e. God's peace is able to guard our hearts and minds in Messiah Jesus (Php 4:7).
- f. We are to rejoice in the Lord Jesus when other believers are concerned about us (Php 4:10).
- g. We can face any and every circumstance through Jesus who strengthens us (Php 4:13).
- h. God has riches in glory in Messiah Jesus (Php 4:19).
- i. We are to greet every saint in Messiah Jesus (Php 4:21).
- j. The grace of the Lord Jesus Messiah is able to be with our human spirit (Php 4:23).

3. Man.

- a. In v. 8, Paul provides the theological basis for a Christian aesthetic or view of art.
- b. Mind.
 - (1) God's peace will guard our hearts and minds in Messiah Jesus (Php 4:7).
 - (2) We are to think about things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, praiseworthy, from God's point of view (Php 4:8).
 - (3) We are to learn to be content in whatever situation (Php 4:11).
 - (4) We are to know how to be brought low (Php 4:12).
 - (5) We are to know how to abound (Php 4:12).
 - (6) We are to learn the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need (Php 4:12).

4. The Christian Life.

- a. All aspects of our lives are to be lived "in the Lord."
 - (1) We are already in Messiah positionally. Now we must live in Messiah practically.

5. The Church.

- a. See *Giving to Ministry*.

Discussion Questions | PUP Lesson Eight

1. Review.

- a. Book theme?
- b. Chapter themes?
- c. Author?
- d. Recipients?
- e. Historical Setting?
- f. Purpose?

2. Philippians 3.

- a. Php 3:1-6?
 - (1) What is confidence in the flesh?
- b. Php 3:6-11?
 - (1) What is Paul attaining for?
- c. Php 3:12-16?
 - (1) What does Paul want to see from the Philippians?
- d. Php 3:17-21?
 - (1) How does a heavenly mindset compare with an earthly mindset?

3. Philippians 4.

- a. Observations from the 5 Ws and H?
- b. Key words and phrases?
- c. Lists?
- d. Contrasts?
- e. Comparisons?
- f. Terms of Conclusion?
- g. Expressions of Time?
- h. Paragraph themes?
- i. Chapter themes?

4. Philippians 4:1-3.

- a. In v. 1., what is the “therefore” there for?
- b. How many times does Paul address the Philippians as “brothers”? Why does he do this? What about sisters?
- c. Paul says he loves and longs for the Philippians. Where else have we seen that in his letter?
- d. Why does Paul say the Philippians are his joy and crown? Who is your joy and crown?
- e. Where else does Paul say to “stand firm”? Why does Paul repeat that command?
- f. How many times is “in the Lord” or “in Christ Jesus” found in this chapter? In Philippians? What does that prepositional phrase mean?
- g. What mindset is necessary for Euodia and Syntyche if they are to agree in the Lord?
- h. Who is the “true companion”?
- i. What do we learn from the fact these women labored side by side with Paul in the gospel?

- j. What is the book of life?

5. Philippians 4:4-7.

- a. Which of the three phases of the Christian life is Paul focused on?
- b. Are the yous and yours singular or plural? Does this matter?
- c. Why does Paul repeat the command to rejoice? Is it possible to be rejoice always? What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? What if you don't feel like rejoicing?
- d. How does walking in the flesh versus walking in the Spirit apply here?
- e. How do we let our reasonableness be known to everyone?
- f. Why does Paul mention, "The Lord is at hand"?
- g. What does it mean to be anxious? What are we to do when we are anxious?
- h. How are we to make our requests made known to God? How often are we allowed to make requests to God?
- i. What is the peace of God? How does it guard our hearts and minds?
- j. Are you taking full advantage of this promise?

6. Review.

- a. How do the four chapters of Philippians relate to one another?
- b. How important is the thought life of a believer?
- c. How is your thought life in the Lord?
- d. Is there any aspect of your life that is not "in the Lord"?

7. Schedule.

Notes