

Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds  
through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

# The Church Under (and On) Fire

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And one primary truth was their understanding of the Kingdom of God and all its implications.

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And the early church lived in the realm of knowing God as their King and they served Him on earth while maintaining the rights and privileges of being a citizen of His Kingdom.

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The early Christians, and many since then, have relished the confidence and boldness that comes from knowing they are a child of the King and residing in His grand and protected Kingdom. Remember, nothing can happen to a citizen of the Kingdom that surprises the King.

And nothing can happen to a child of the King unless the King thought it best.

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Romans 10:17



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Philippians 4



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Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all men.

The Lord is at hand.

Philippians 4:4-5

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How is this possible?

And what truth is God revealing to us?

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Note the meaning of the word Lord, *kúrios*.

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How often are we to rejoice in our Sovereign King,  
our Owner and Master and Possessor?

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Why do you think that is?

And how did the early church live this reality out in their own lives during persecution?

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And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them (small picture), they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing (big picture) that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Acts 5:40-41

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Where was their fear of man?

What happened to their fear of what the  
government could do to them?

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This is what happens when a group of people know God as their Sovereign King, and not just their Savior.



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Again I will say, rejoice!

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Philippians 4:4-5

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Let's look first at the statement to see exactly what the Lord is saying to us, or what is His command we are to follow.

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Let your gentleness (*epieikḗs* – mercifulness or tolerance, kindness even when mistreated, forbearing, considerate, yielding, to be lenient and unassertive)  
be known (*ginōskō*)  
to all (*pás* – each, every, the whole, in totality without exception) men.

Philippians 4:5a

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We are commanded to, no matter what happens to us by evil people or institutions, let our mercy and tolerance and unassertiveness be known, by experience in real life and in real time, to all, even to those who hate us and want to destroy us.

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How can we have the depth of love and grace and confidence to live like that?

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What did the early church believe that we don't?

# The Words of Our King

# The Words of Our King

The Reason



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Philippians 4:5b

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## The Reason

The Lord (*kúrios* – master, owner, possessor,  
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is at hand (*eggús* – close, near, ready to help).

Philippians 4:5b

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Philippians 4:5b

They knew they were not alone. God was with them.



# The Words of Our King

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“So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near (*eggús*)—at the doors!”

Matthew 24:33

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“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near (*eggús*).”

Revelation 1:3

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Revelation 1:3

And he said to me,  
“Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book,  
for the time is at hand (*eggús*).”

Revelation 22:10



# The Words of Our King

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Revelation 22:10

# The Words of Our King

The Reason

# The Words of Our King

## The Reason

The Lord (*kúrios* – master, owner, possessor,  
sovereign, ruler)  
is at hand (*eggús* – close, near, ready to help).

Philippians 4:5b

# The Words of Our King

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**The Lord** (*kúrios* – master, owner, possessor, sovereign, ruler)  
is at hand (*eggús* – close, near, ready to help).

Philippians 4:5b

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What does it mean to live as if the Lord is near?

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**The Lord** (*kúrios* – master, owner, possessor, sovereign, ruler)  
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Philippians 4:5b

What does it mean to live as if the Lord is near?  
To live as if He is with you in every situation?

# The Words of Our King

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**The Lord** (*kúrios* – master, owner, possessor, sovereign, ruler)  
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Philippians 4:5b

This is how the early church lived and thrived in times that were both hurtful and frightening.

# The Words of Our King

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Which is exactly what God wanted to do now.

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Plus, His promises should always trump our doubts.

Which is exactly what God wanted to do now.

Look what He says next.

# The Words of Our King



# The Words of Our King

Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

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Philippians 4:6-7

Familiar verse.

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Philippians 4:6-7

Familiar verse. But what is God actually saying?

# The Words of Our King

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The Command:

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The Promise:

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The Command: Be anxious for nothing, but (what) in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

The Promise: and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Note what the promise doesn't say.

# The Words of Our King

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This promise doesn't guarantee God will remove you from whatever situation you are worried about.

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This promise doesn't guarantee God will remove you from whatever situation you are worried about.

This promise doesn't guarantee you won't feel pain or loss or suffer death?



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And this promise doesn't guarantee a humanly positive outcome, no matter how hard we pray.

# The Words of Our King

This promise doesn't guarantee God will remove you from whatever situation you are worried about.

This promise doesn't guarantee you won't feel pain or loss or suffer death?

And this promise doesn't guarantee a humanly positive outcome, no matter how hard we pray.

But what it does promise is the peace of God which the world, including each of us, cannot fully fathom or understand.

# The Words of Our King

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And if He wanted to answer our prayers like we desire, He both could and would, if He wanted to.

# The Words of Our King

And God's peace will guard our emotions and thoughts through the Lord Jesus, no matter how bad our situation might seem in the flesh.

After all, we serve a great King who knows best.

And if He wanted to answer our prayers like we desire, He both could and would, if He wanted to.

But if He doesn't, there is a reason we often cannot see, or don't want to see, because we think we know best.

# The Words of Our King



# The Words of Our King

Be anxious (troubled, concerned, worry)  
for nothing (no one, nobody, nothing at all),

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No need to worry or be troubled by anything.

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And what can happen to His children that the  
King doesn't know about or is beyond His power?

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**Be anxious** (troubled, concerned, worry)  
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“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’  
or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

For after all these things the Gentiles seek.  
For your heavenly Father knows that you need  
all these things.”

Matthew 6:31-32



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Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

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“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed,  
for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes,  
I will help you, I will uphold you with My  
righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10



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Isaiah 41:10

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Be anxious (troubled, concerned, worry)  
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Isaiah 41:10

# The Words of Our King

Be **anxious** (troubled, concerned, worry)  
for **nothing** (no one, nobody, nothing at all),

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed,  
for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes,  
I will help you, I will uphold you with My  
righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10



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**Be anxious** (troubled, concerned, worry)  
**for nothing** (no one, nobody, nothing at all),

# The Words of Our King

**Be anxious** (troubled, concerned, worry)  
**for nothing** (no one, nobody, nothing at all),

Why should the Gentiles say,  
“So where is their God?”  
But our God is in heaven;  
He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 115:2-3

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And what are we promised when we choose not to  
worry and place all our confidence in God?

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And what are we promised when we choose not to  
worry and place all our confidence in God?

Will He answer our prayers, our way?

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And if not, why are we to have thanksgiving for a  
prayer not answered the way we asked?

What is better than an answered prayer?



# The Words of Our King

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and the peace of (not from) God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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Guard our hearts and minds from what?

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Guard our hearts and minds from what?

And why is this promise better than having our problem taken care of by our Father, the King?

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and the peace of (not from) God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Guard our hearts and minds from what?

And why is this promise better than having our problem taken care of by our Father, the King?

What kind of peace is God talking about?

# The Words of Our King

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and the peace of (not from) God, which surpasses (over and above, to be greater, to excel) all (*pás*) understanding (intellectual, feeling, inclination), will guard (keep, preserve, hold fast, to watch like a warden) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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So, the promise is one of peace and not necessarily desired outcome.

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and the peace of (not from) God, which surpasses (over and above, to be greater, to excel) all (*pás*) understanding (intellectual, feeling, inclination), will guard (keep, preserve, hold fast, to watch like a warden) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

So, the promise is one of peace and not necessarily desired outcome.

And why does God think this is best for us?

# The Words of Our King



# The Words of Our King

What does this saying mean?

# The Words of Our King

What does this saying mean?

Give a man a fish,

# The Words of Our King

What does this saying mean?

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day.

# The Words of Our King

What does this saying mean?

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day.

Teach a man to fish,

# The Words of Our King

What does this saying mean?

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day.

Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.

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What does this saying mean?

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What does this saying mean?

Answer a specific prayer, and you teach a man to expect God to give him what he prays for.

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What does this saying mean?

Answer a specific prayer, and you teach a man to expect God to give him what he prays for.

Teach a man the goodness of God, and He will grow into the likeness of His Lord and trust Him no matter the outcome.



# The Words of Our King

What does this saying mean?

Answer a specific prayer, and you teach a man to expect God to give him what he prays for.

Teach a man the goodness of God, and He will grow into the likeness of His Lord and trust Him no matter the outcome.

One is temporal, the other eternal.

# The Words of Our King

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And how can we have the confidence that Jesus had when He was asleep on a cushion in the back of a boat during a frightful storm?

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One final thought.

How are we to cultivate an attitude of faith and trust when we face such uncertain times?

And how can we have the confidence that Jesus had when He was asleep on a cushion in the back of a boat during a frightful storm?

Just keep reading.

# The Words of Our King

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Finally, brethren, whatever things are true,  
whatever things are noble, whatever things are just,  
whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely,  
whatever things are of good report,  
if there is any virtue and if there is anything  
praiseworthy— meditate on these things.

Philippians 4:8



# The Words of Our King

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And there will be no room in your psyche for doubt.

