

# Philippians 4:1-7

**Phil 4:1-7** *Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. 2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* NKJV

## A Call for Unity

Paul starts by expressing his **unity** with the Philippians. He calls them his beloved and **longed-for** brethren. He refers to them as his joy and crown. He uses his relationship with the Philippians as the foundation of his instruction to **stand** fast in the Lord. In Philippians 1:27 he told them to “stand fast in one spirit.”

**1 Cor 16:13-14** *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.* NKJV

Paul told the Corinthians to stand fast in the **faith**.

**Eph 6:13-14** *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore...* NKJV

Paul told the Ephesians that in order to stand firm they needed to put on the whole **armor** of God. Standing firm in Christ requires **perseverance**. It is not easy.

He begs Euodia and Syntyche to be of the **same** mind. We don't know what issues were separating them.

He encourages his true companion to **help** these women be of the same mind.

These women **labored** with Paul in the gospel. This is the same word that is in Philippians 1:27 that is translated “striving together.”

He says these ladies have their name written in the Book of **Life**.

Sometimes two people whose names are written in the Book of Life, still need help being of the same mind here on **earth**.

**Rev 21:22-27** *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.* NKJV

Only those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be with the Lord God Almighty.

## A Call to Rejoice

**Phil 4:4-5** *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.*

One of the main reasons that Christians can rejoice in all circumstances is that our names are written in the Book of Life.

### Potential Joy Busters

**John 16:31-33** *Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." NKJV*

**Conflict with the world** should not rob us of our joy. We should expect conflict with the world. We can have peace because victory belongs to the Lord. We can be of good cheer because He has overcome the world.

**Phil 4:11-13** *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. NKJV*

**Financial difficulty** should not rob us of our joy. We should be content in whatever financial situation we find ourselves.

**Luke 12:51-53** *Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. 52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. 53 Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." NKJV*

**Relationship issues** should not rob us of our joy.

We should let our gentleness be seen by others. Gentleness - what is reasonable; 1. seemly, suitable (from Homer down). 2. equitable, fair, mild, gentle. (Thayer's, PC Study Bible)

Another reason we should always have joy is because we know that the Lord is at hand.

1. Close in time. This was the belief that the Lord was going to return quickly.
2. Close in proximity. This is the belief that the Lord is always close to help us.

**Ps 145:17-19** *The Lord is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. 18 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. NKJV*

The psalmist proclaimed that the Lord is near to all who **call** upon Him.

**Matt 28:18-20** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. NKJV*

**Acts 18:9-11** *Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. NKJV*

Few things are as **comforting** for a Christian as to know that Christ is near them.

### **A Call not to Worry**

**Phil 4:6** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. NKJV*

We are to rejoice always and **never** be anxious.

Instead of worrying about things, we should pray about **everything**.

Paul uses three words in the text. They are: prayer, supplication, and requests.

**Supplication** - 1. **need**, indigence (Ps 21:25 (22:25 ); Aeschines dial. 2, 39 f; (Plato, Eryx. 405 e. bis); Aristotle, rhet. 2, 7 (ii., p. 1385 a, 27)). 2. a seeking, **asking**, entreating, entreaty (from Plato down); in the N. T. requests addressed by men to God (Thayer's - PC Study Bible).

A supplication is asking God for something based on a **need**. The need can be yours or someone else's.

Request - (from Plato down), what is or has been asked for: Luke 23:24

**Luke 23:20-25** *Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. 21 But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" 22 Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." 23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. 24 So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. 25 And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will. NKJV*

The people got what they requested because they demanded it **consistently** with loud voices.

Do we request things of God with the same **urgency** they requested that Jesus be crucified?

All of our prayers need to be made with **thanksgiving**.

Once we make our requests known to God then the **peace** of God will **guard** our hearts and minds through **Christ** Jesus.

**Matt 26:44-46** *So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at*

*hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand." NKJV*

Jesus was a great example of asking God for something then having a peace that was beyond **comprehension**.

Do you live life with the fear of losing or with the joy and peace of guaranteed victory?