

# Philippians: The Worthy Life 4

## Philippians 4

In Chapter Four Paul brings all his thoughts together and gives the church in Philippi practical instructions on how to deal with church turmoil and their own inner troubles.

The Gospel of Christ is a Life-Giving Message! A church that represents Jesus will be a life-giving church. A person that represents Jesus will be a life-giving person.

Chapter four can be broken down into two Parts: **A Worthy Church Life; A Worthy Personal Life**

### The Five Big Questions:

- 1) Is there a Truth to learn?
- 2) Is there an Example to follow?
- 3) Is there a Promise to claim?
- 4) Is there a Sin to avoid?
- 5) Is there a Command to obey?

### Let Your Church Life Represent the Message

In Chapter 4 there is a Correction, a Command, and a Compliment which has a promise attached to it.

#### 1) **The Correction:** Deal with the Division

v.2,3 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

a) Have the "Same Mind".

- i) This doesn't mean that everyone will always have the same opinions. It does mean that we should all have the same goals. The gospel of Christ going forth!  
The Kingdom of God

(1) The good news of Jesus being preached.

(2) The good work of Jesus being displayed by our unity.

ii) This is clearly seen in our key verse: **1:27** “let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ... I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”

iii) This is amplified in 2:1-4:

(1) Since you have been united with Christ (2:1) and share the same resources of the Spirit, agree with one another so that you can work together with one mind and one purpose (2:2).

(2) (2:3) For this to happen you cannot fight for your own position, recognition, or your own preferences for the ministry. In fact you have to count others more significant than yourself.

b) It takes the “same mind” to settle disputes. In order to get there you have to see both sides.

c) Be the source of healing and harmony and not the source of division and discord!

**Romans 12:16-18** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud... **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil... do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

2) **A Command:** Rejoice in God’s goodness and go the extra mile.

**4:4,5** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

a) Life-Giving Churches that truly represent Jesus have a culture of Unity and Joy!

b) For a church to truly represent Jesus, that church will be a joyful church no matter the circumstances.

**The kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17**

In your Circumstances: FIND YOUR JOY! And when it wains FIND IT AGAIN.

**4:4,5** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

c) “gentleness” in verse 5 seems to a difficult word to translate into English. Besides “gentleness it is also translated “considerate”, “forbearance”.

i) Here’s the command church: Rejoice! Don’t be Harsh! Consider other’s opinions, show forbearance.

ii) And while you are forbearing, FIND YOUR JOY! And... find your joy again and again!

3) **A Promise:** You are sacrificial givers and God will reward you.

Phil 4:10-19 NLT How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. **11** Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. **12** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **13** For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

**14** Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. **15** As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. **16** Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. **17** I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness (Most versions say, I just want this to be credited to your account).

**18** At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

We as a church value generosity! We give to missions home and abroad. Why? So that the manner of life in this church represents the character and conduct of Jesus Himself.

### **Let Your Personal Life Represent the Message**

After writing to a few specific people and to the local church, Paul exhorts the entire Jesus Community with some Kingdom principles.

4:6-8 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

“Finally” in verse 8 indicates “what I am about to say is vital to you”.

- 1) The Battleground for your Christian life is in your Mind.
  - a) Don't let your anxiety spin out of control instead let your spirit man tap into your Kingdom Realities.
  - b) When you are anxious about life it is because fear is manifesting in some kind of way.

But **God has not given us a spirit of fear!** he has given us **power, love,** and a **sound mind.**

- 2) The Peace of God is powerful and you find it in prayer. (**7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**)
  - a) Peace is a by-product of salvation.
  - b) Another Promise: in prayer you can find the Peace of God will guard your mind.
  - c) Pray until you get a word from God.
    - i) In the meantime... rejoice! Express you're the joy of your salvation to the Lord in worship.
    - ii) It may not come in an audible voice but there will be an inner assurance that God is on the job.
- 3) Control your thoughts and maintain your peace.
  - a) Your peace life needs maintenance!
  - b) You can't control every circumstance but you can control your thoughts.
    - i) Make a list of Kingdom Thoughts and put them into practice.
      - (1) Remove what is NOT true.
      - (2) Remove thoughts that are dishonoring to Jesus and others.
      - (3) Identify your tendency towards wrong thinking.

**Phil 4:8,9 NLT Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.**

**9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you**