

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**PHILIPPIANS 4****Philippians 4**

Chapter four begins with instruction from the Apostle to a couple of ladies in the church who seemed to be at odds with each other, and that was bringing division within the body. He reminds them all that the Macedonia believers, and especially the Philippians, were his joy and his crown. In v. 5, he reminds them to be gentle or, as the Greek text is best translated into English, be equitable or fair with one another, that is, look beyond one another's faults and let unity be their aim.

The church at Philippi was under great pressure. They were very poor, according to the letters to the Corinthians; the Macedonians were in great poverty. A lack of finances brings added pressure to any relationship, in or out of the church. So, Paul told them, **"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."** (v. 6) The difference between concern and worry is found in the word used in the text. Concern is normal and needed in many situations because it speaks of diligence. However, the word for worry is a picture word that gives the idea of a person taking hair from their head in their right hand and in their left hand and pulling in an outward motion. It's where we are frustrated and fretting and say something to the effect

of, "I'm about to pull my hair out!" That is what is meant by being worried or being anxious. God's peace will set guard over those who, out of a heart and attitude of thanksgiving, specifically talk to God about everything and learn by doing this to live a life of trust.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. 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. 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." (vv.8-9)

What we think determines how we act and ultimately is what controls us- our attitudes, our joy, our contentment. Please look over the characteristics of a godly mind. Paul says to ruminate on these godly and positive thoughts, and a pattern will develop. He used this to remind himself that whether he had a lot of money, more than he needed, and he had learned to live with that in contentment. He had also learned to live with very little. He did not allow the amount of money he had or the lack of money to control him and the joy he had in the Lord Jesus. He lived a life of contentment.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father, thank You for providing our every need. Please help me to trust You and not worry and fret about how much or how little I have. You are the Great Provider. Teach me to be faithful in how I handle the money You place in my hand, to honor You first, and then live with contentment on what You have provided. Amen