

Monday, 22 August 2016

Philippians 4:4-8 [1]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

This passage is scriptural comfort food to me. Paul begins with an exhortation to rejoice because... He could have ended with "So rejoice in the Lord always, His sufficiency is evident." Note that the exhortation is to rejoice **in** the Lord, revel in His presence, exult in His beauty, be exuberant in His mercy, celebrate His love, be jubilant in His grace, be triumphant in His Kingdom...rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Tuesday, 23 August 2016

Philippians 4:4-8 [2]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Let reasonableness (moderation, rationality, soundness, wisdom, sensibility, tenableness) be known to all. Don't hide the transforming power of the Holy Spirit behind an ill-advised attempt to blend into the culture.

Wednesday, 24 August 2016

Philippians 4:4-8 [3]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be

anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

It seems to me that there is an implied 'therefore' between these two clauses. How can I be anxious about anything if I am fully convinced that the Lord has my back? Anxiety just reveals my old man lack of confidence in the Lord's sufficiency; I need to be doing something, well anything, to resolve my problems (often self-induced) rather wait upon a Spirit led resolution.

Thursday, 25 August 2016

Philippians 4:4-8 [4]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Here's the triple play of the Christian faith; to make my desires known to God (supplication) through prayer, well seasoned with thanksgiving. This should be the most common aspect of my Christian life--to be a man of unceasing prayer. Certainly not an extremely rare event as the baseball version, but as normal as breathing.

"Known to God." Well, doesn't He know? Of course He does, but do I? Do I really understand that all things are under His control?

I have a long ways to go. The longer I live in the Kingdom in the here and now, the more I realize my insufficiency and His sufficiency.

Friday, 26 August 2016

Philippians 4:4-8 [5]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

PowerBall, MegaBucks and a free cup of coffee at the corner convenience store all in one day, every day. To have the incomprehensible peace of the LORD, God the Almighty, alloying my turbulent soul to produce a new man in Christ Jesus is far better than anything this world has to offer.

Saturday, 27 August 2016

Philippians 4:4-8 [6]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Paul's TV Guide! This little list of eight qualities must guide my life. It should set the standard for my conversations, for my actions, for my leisure activities, for my hopes and aspirations, and for my relationships.

Guide me and teach me, Holy Spirit.

Lord's Day, 28 August 2016 Psalm 119:108

Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.

Lord, praise must flow freely and from the heart of my own volition. Yes, the Holy spirit serves as the conduit and as the messenger, but I must be the source of the praises. My praise must be without coercion, offered up freely in gratitude for my redemption and my adoption into Your Kingdom.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



August 22-28, 2016

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven
The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318
Essex Junction, VT 05452

or at

The Fellowship of Ailbe, voices@ailbe.org
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.