



# Service Devotional Guide

## June 21, 2020

*Start by praying and asking God to meet you in this passage, the sermon, and the reading and prayers. Then read the following passage several times.*

### **Philippians 4: 4-13**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. <sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. “The world will try to sell you all sorts of peace.” What kinds of solutions does our culture offer us to deal with stress and anxiety? Why do these sources of peace never satisfy?

2. “Paul is talking about an inner peace, not an outer peace. A peace that happens inside of you even when the outside might be chaotic.” Have you ever experienced a deep peace in the midst of a chaotic, stressful situation? Do you know people who seem to have a deep “inner” peace from God?
3. “Nobody is born with a peace like this. It has to be learned.” Would you say you have an anxious personality? Or are you naturally more calm? Nevertheless, what are some disciplines you could use to “learn” the gospel more deeply and embed the good news more deeply into your life?
4. “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.” (Phi 4:8). For each of the underlined words above, think of an example from scripture showing how God or Christ exemplifies this quality.
5. “Peace is free for us, but it is incredibly costly for God.” What does this statement mean? How does Christ’s death on the cross bring us more peace in our lives?
6. “God can’t give you a peace apart from himself.” (Augustine) If you are longing for peace in your life, trust in Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to begin to grow within you. If you know someone else who needs peace in their life, say a prayer for them. Consider sharing Philippians 4 with someone who is anxious. Consider sharing the link to Sunday’s service with someone who needs God’s peace.

## **Closing Prayer**

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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