

Is the Lord nearby?  
(Philippians 4:4 – 9)

Matthew 24:21 – 22 “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

### History

~51 AD Paul and Silas arrive in Philippi  
(Acts 16:12)

~58 AD Collection for famine relief

~62 AD Paul in prison in Rome

67 AD Jewish revolt begins

70 AD Jerusalem and Temple destroyed

2 Corinthians 8:1 – 4, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia, that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints.”

(Philippians 4:4 – 9)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! Let your gentleness [your forbearance, your moderation, your reputation for reasonableness] be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren,

whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me [like when I was singing in the dungeon with Silas], these do, and the God of peace will be with you.  
(Philippians 4:4 – 9)

**Philippians**

1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care but you lacked opportunity.

2:2 Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

**Colossians**

1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.

**2 John 4** I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the father.

**3 John 3** For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

**1 Peter 1:8** Whom having not seen, you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

**James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

**Biblical faith = Saving faith**

- It's not a feeling
- It's not knowing certain facts
- It's looking at the promises of God
  - Having absolutely no idea how God will ever pull it off
  - Being convinced that it is absolutely beyond my ability
  - And setting out to do it anyway.

**Great promises fall flat when the focus fails to remain on faith.**

- What does this passage teach me about faith?
- Where's the faith?
- Faith, it's what's for dinner.

**Can Christians**

**in desperate circumstances  
still be exceedingly glad?**

**Rejoice in the Lord always.**

**Rejoice in the successes of faith,  
either yours or someone else's.**

Let [your gentleness, your moderation,  
your forbearing, your reputation for  
reasonableness] be known to all men.

How can I be reasonable in  
unreasonable circumstances?

The Lord is at hand.

1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has  
overtaken you except as is common to man;  
but God is faithful, who will not allow you to  
be tempted beyond what you are able, but  
with the temptation will also make the way of  
escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!  
Let [your gentleness, your forbearance, your  
moderation, your reputation for  
reasonableness] be known to all men. Why?  
The Lord is at hand. The promises are real. So  
– Be anxious for nothing, 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  
minds through Christ Jesus.

### Be anxious for nothing?

The world promises peace and delivers anxiety.

The successes of faith bring joy.

Prayer enables faith and defeats anxiety.

### Successful Prayer

Tell God what you really think.

Remind God of His promises.

Thank God for delivering on those promises

BEFORE IT HAPPENS

**...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

### **The Peace of God**

Our mental processes will be fixed

- By our certain knowledge of our deliverance
  - From Judgment
  - From confusion
  - From darkness
  - From death
- By a gift that we pursue
- As it maintains like-mindedness in the church.

### **Understanding**

1 Corinthians 1:17 – 2:14; the wisdom of God is so far beyond the wisdom of people that it makes us look silly. So don't sweat it, just trust it.

### **Heart**

Used 156 times figuratively for  
Thoughts  
Motives  
Loyalties  
Attitudes  
Intentions

### **Mind**

The intellect reaching a conclusion.

The peace of God lets the facts and the emotions gel, overcoming the natural anxiety of living on this earth.

**Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.**

### **Practice conscious thought control**

How will this bad news enable:

- My success as an ambassador?
- The needs of the church?
- The success of faith?

### **Meditate on the good stuff**

- **The realm of spirits is 100% good.**
- **This world is only partly good.**
- **Understand God's physical symbols of invisible stuff.**
- **See the principles of the spirit played out in the world.**

### **Joy happens when:**

- **The spiritual invades the physical world**
- **The peace of God gels our thoughts and emotions**
- **Our spirits are connected to other spirits**

**Faith, it's what's for dinner.**