

22. WE MUST STAND FIRM BY REJOICING, TRUSTING, AND PRAYING: Philippians 4:4-7

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, October 18th, 2020

THEME/INTRO: You must stand firm with the saints by rejoicing, trusting, and praying.

I. YOU MUST STAND FIRM WITH THE SAINTS BY REJOICING IN THE LORD (v.4-5)

Philippians 4:4-5 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;”

- **Mark this down in your mind as a command of the King:** Jesus says “rejoice in Me always; again I will say rejoice.”
- **Yet Paul demands that we do this with reasonableness!**
- **Q. What does that mean? A.** To rejoice with reasonableness means you must not lie and act as though you have no trails and temptations!
- **Romans 5:3-5** “we rejoice *in* our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, & endurance produces character, & character produces hope, **5** & hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
- **Q. What reasons do I have to rejoice in the Lord? A.** Too many to number in one sermon! **But consider these wonderful reasons.**
- **I) I was once “dead in my trespasses in sins”** and now I am “alive together in Christ.” **II) I once “followed after the world, the flesh and the devil,”** now I have been rescued by Christ Jesus and “I work out my own salvation with fear and trembling because it is God who works in me!” **III) I used to “live in the passions of my sinful flesh and the mind,”** but now by God’s grace I “buffet my body and make it my slave.” **IV) I used to be “a child of wrath like the rest of mankind”** but now I am a child of mercy, with God as my Father! **V) I used to “dwell in a land of deep darkness,”** but now on me the Light of Christ has shown! **VI) I used to chiefly love my sin, now** —because of His sovereign grace—I chiefly love my Christ. **VII) I used to be seated on my sins in Adam,** but now—even now—I am “seated with Christ Jesus in the heavenly places, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward [me] in Christ Jesus.”
- **Beloved, you must reasonably rejoice even in your trails,** praising God that He has already and will one day totally deliver you from and trials & temptations by His Son’s death and resurrection because “The Lord is at hand.”
- **This is why it has been said,** “Take a saint, and put him into any condition, and he knows how to rejoice in the Lord.” (Walter Cradock)
- **Q.** Can you rejoice in any condition? **Q.** Can you preach the gospel to your own heart & say with Job, “Thou shalt slay me, still I will praise you!”?
- **The Lord has promised,** “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **Or as Paul says here,** “The Lord is at hand.”
- **Q.** Can you be downcast while the Lord of heaven and earth who spilled His own blood for you is at this very moment holding your hand and promises never to let it go? **A.** Not for long, thank God!
- **Living faith in Christ Jesus, our bleeding surety, cannot coexist with whining, complaining, nor with cold-heartedness!** Looking to Christ in faith will cause you to rejoice in the Lord always!
- **Knowing in your heart that His loving hand of providence is interlocked with your own** will surely cause you to obey the Apostles’ command to “rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, rejoice.”

II. YOU MUST STAND FIRM WITH THE SAINTS BY REPENTING OF WORRY AND TRUSTING THE LORD OF PROVIDENCE (v.6a)

Philippians 4:6a “do not be anxious about anything,”

- **Mr. Worldly Wisdom** will tell you that anxiety and worry are both natural; **Paul says, “Yeah, for sinners.”**
 - **Christians are forbidden the sinful indulgence of anxiety!**
 - **Your Savior & King, the Lord Jesus Christ commands you:** “Do not be anxious about *anything*.” He does not say please.
 - **FIGHT WITH DAVID! Psalm 42:5-6** “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you.”
 - **The promises of Christ are not *only* medicines to heal your sin-wounds; the promises of Christ are guard dogs to chase your fears away! You need guard dogs around your heart that bark and chase away the fears that seek to plunder your house and steal the precious jewel of joy in Christ! Q.** Beloved, would you please memorize **Romans 8** and sick those hounds on your worries?
 - **Romans 8:1** “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. . . . For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,” **Romans 8:11** “he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” **Romans 8:18** “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” **Romans 8:28** “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:30** “And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” **Romans 8:31-32** “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” **Romans 8:35-39** “³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - **SPURGEON:** “If God cares for you, why [must] you care too? Can you trust Him for your soul, and not for your body? He has never refused to bear your burdens, He has never fainted under their weight. Come, then, soul! Be done with fretful care, and leave all [your] concerns in the hand of a gracious God.”
 - **WILLIAMS COWPER:** “Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread. Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.”
 - **Fire the cannons of Christ’s promises at the walls of worry and see them come tumbling down! Q.** Who can you help fight?
- Now, preaching the gospel to your own heart is not the only way to repent and be shielded from from the sin of indulgent worry!**

III. YOU MUST STAND FIRM WITH THE SAINTS BY PRAYING (v.6b)

Philippians 4:3a “but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Matthew 6:6a “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.”

THOMAS BROOKS: “A family without prayer is like a house without a roof, open and exposed to all the storms of heaven.”

SPURGEON: “Neglect of private prayer is the locust which devours the strength of the church.”

Q. Do you lack motivation to set aside time for private prayer?

Consider the Lord Jesus Christ who is your Advocate in heaven! Consider that He has opened your access to the throne of grace!

Hebrews 4:15-16 “**15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Consider also the love that God has for you—He sings over you in joy you saints, and promises to quiet you with His love!

Zephaniah 3:17 “The Lord your God is in your midst (*the Lord is at hand*), a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” (**CHILDREN**)

The Lord God who with loud singing exults over you and promises to quiet you with His love has bid you come and pray about everything!

John Newton: come my soul thy suit prepare

“Come, my soul, thy suit prepare: Jesus loves to answer prayer;

He Himself has bid thee pray, Therefore will not say thee nay;

Thou art coming to a King, Large petitions with thee bring;

For His grace and power are such, None can ever ask too much.”

Therefore, fire the cannons of Christ’s promises at the walls of worry and AND ASK GOD TO BRING THEM tumbling down!

Q. Are you firing the promises at your heart? **Q.** Are you thanking God for His grace and providence and asking His help?

IV. WHAT JEWELS GOD PROMISES THOSE THAT REJOICE, TRUST, AND PRAY (v.7)

Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Q. Do you truly want your mind and heart guarded from anxieties and worries? **A.** Then be much in private prayer.

JOSEPH SCRIVEN: What a Friend we Have in Jesus

“What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer;

You must fire arrows of gospel promises at your worries, and you must also thank God for those promises & ask His help!

Matthew 6:6a “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

THOMAS GOODWIN: “Those blessings are sweetest that are won with prayers and won with thanks.”

Have you no peace? It is likely because you have no prayer!

Q. How can you expect your heart to fly to heaven if your words never go there?

He who said, “peace be still” to the storm will say “peace be still to your soul” but He has promised that treasure is only received from heaven by prayer.

THOMAS WATSON: “The tree of the promise will not drop its fruit, unless shaken by the hand of prayer.”

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; **6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

WILLIAM DYER: “To bless God for mercies is the way to increase them; to bless Him for miseries is the way to remove them.”

MATTHEW HENRY: “You may as soon find a living man who does not breathe, as a living Christian who does not pray.”

MARTIN LUTHER: “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

GEORGE MUELLER: “For more than half a century, I have never known one day when I had not more business than I could get through. For 40 years, I have had annually about 30,000 letters, and most of these have passed through my own hands. I have nine assistants always at work corresponding in German, French, English, Danish, Italian, Russian, and other languages. Then, as pastor of a church with 1200

believers, great has been my care. I have had charge of five orphanages; also at my publishing depot, the printing and circulation of millions of tracts, books, and Bibles. But I have always made it a rule never to begin work till I have had a good season with God.”

- **J.C. RYLE:** “Be sure no time is so well spent as that which a man spends on his knees.”