

INTERNET PRAYER MEETING

Scripture:

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (1 Timothy 1:7)

Hymn:

I Must Tell Jesus

I must tell Jesus all of my trials;
I cannot bear these burdens alone.
In my distress He kindly will help me;
He ever loves and cares for His own.

I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
I cannot bear my burdens alone.
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.

Bible Study:

THE PEACE OF GOD

Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:7)

Paul counsels us to take “everything to God in prayer.” he says, “don’t worry about anything”, instead, “pray about everything.” We are prone to pray about the “big-things” in life and forget to pray about the so-called “little things” - until they grow and become big things. Talking to God about everything that concerns us and Him is the first step toward victory over worry. The result is that the “*peace of God*” will guard our hearts and minds. (Phil. 4:7)

Just what is the peace of God? This verse promises us an inner calm or tranquility if we pray with a thankful heart. Paul has been building up to this. There had been problems in the church. There were going to be problems coming their way. So Paul tells them and us what they and we need to be doing.

First, we are to be cultivating love and peace in the fellowship. (Phil. 4:2-3)

Second, we are to focus on our relationship with Christ. “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” (Phil. 4:4)

Third, we are to have a humble hearts and receive comfort from the nearness of God. “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.” (Phil. 4:5)

And fourth, we are to pray with a thankful heart in the midst of difficulties. “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Phil. 4:6)

When we bring our problems to God He gives us His peace.

The prophet Daniel gives us a wonderful illustration of peace through prayer.

When the king announced that none of his subjects was to pray to anyone except himself, Daniel went to his home, opened his windows as was his custom, and prayed as he had in the past. (Daniel 6:1-10)

Notice how Daniel prayed. He “*prayed and gave thanks before his God.*” (Dan. 6:10) He made supplication. “Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.” (Dan. 6:11) Prayer - supplication- thanksgiving. And the result was perfect peace in the midst of difficulties. In fact, Daniel was able to spend the night with the lions in perfect peace, while the king in his palace couldn’t sleep.

The real challenge for us as Christians is not to eliminate every uncomfortable circumstance in our lives but to trust the infinite, holy, sovereign, and powerful God in the midst of every situation. Look at what Jesus says to us in John 16:33. “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) What we need to do is live in God’s presence, accept that we live in a fallen world, and allow God to do His perfect work in us. And God will give us His peace as we confidently entrust ourselves to His care. This peace “surpasses all understanding” that is “comprehension.” No one can give this peace to us because it is a gift from God. It exceeds human analysis, human insights, and human understanding. It is a calm that lifts the believer above the most difficult circumstances of life.

Now, what does the peace of God do? The peace of God “shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:7b) The Greek word translated here “shall keep” is a military term meaning to “guard” - “to keep watch over.” The Philippian believers lived in a garrison town where Roman soldiers were stationed to guard the interests of the empire in that part of the world. In the same way, God’s peace guards us from anxiety, doubt, fear, and distress. The peace of God acts as a guard, or sentinel, at the door of our hearts and minds. When we dwell upon our problems our hearts and minds become seriously affected, so much so that we go all to pieces. But God’s peace does sentinel duty over our hearts and minds to prevent any successful attack on the part of the enemy.

God promises to guard our hearts and minds with peace as we entrust ourselves to His care. (Phil. 4:7b) Isaiah wrote of this supernatural peace: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee.” (Isa. 26:3) Paul prayed for the Romans that “the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13) In his high priestly blessing on Israel Aaron said, “The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” (Num. 6:26) In Psalm 29:11 David wrote, “The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.” Shortly before His death Jesus promised, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not our heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

When everything is placed trustingly into the hands of our Heavenly Father in prayer, petition, and praise, we know that He will keep watch over our hearts and minds so that nothing can upset us mentally or emotionally.

Prayer:

Our gracious Heavenly Father. Thou Who are all knowing and all powerful. We come to Thee, as Thou has invited us, with our prayers and petitions, and thanksgivings. We are thankful that Thou art a prayer hearing and prayer answering God.

Lord, though we as a Body of Believers can not physically be together at this time, we come before Thy throne in spirit, together.

As we bring these prayers and supplications and thanksgivings to You, may our hearts be united and may You be Glorified.

It is in the name of our Wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that we pray.

Prayer Request:

Hymn:

Near, Still Nearer

Nearer, still nearer - close to Thy heart,
Draw me, my Savior, so precious Thou art.
Fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast;
Shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest."
Shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest."

Scripture:

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)