

# Peace and Joy in the LORD

## Խաղաղութիւն եւ Ուրախութիւն Տէրոջմով

### Philippians 4:1-7

We have arrived to the fourth chapter of the letter to the Philippians. It has been an amazing journey with Paul and his disciples. I hope you learned a lot from this letter. It is a practical letter. It includes 26 imperatives: “run, pray, rejoice, stand up, stand firm...” and so on. In the fourth chapter, we have nine of those. We have arrived to a very practical passage.

Please notice, Paul did not start with this chapter; he prepared us to get there. First, he wanted Jesus, who laid his life on the cross, to be our example. He wanted to underline that anything else in the world, fame, heritage, achievements, he considers nothing in order to gain Christ. **He wanted us to have the right attitude** before he introduced the church and us this section. Also in chapter two he encouraged them to consider others more important...(war on selfishness).

Here I am standing in front of the Courthouse in downtown Fresno. Behind these walls, come two parties who have disputes or legal disagreements. They come with their lawyers, and they face the judge and the jury and so on. Today Paul is introducing two ladies, **Euodia Բօսիլա and Syntyche Միւղիքի**, most likely not just them, but their followers are in disagreement. Paul wants peace in the Lord. Paul will challenge the early church to have ղիէ same mind in the Lord. Paul wants the church not lose their joy in all troubles. So let us dig in...

### 1. Stand Together Firm

Միասին Հաստատ Մնալ

**Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. (Philp 4:1 ESV)**

Paul's heart is with these people. "My beloved.... you are my love, and I am looking forward to seeing you... You are my joy, my crown..." Paul loves these people. He starts this section with words of encouragement and asks them to continue **to stand firm in the Lord.**

Remember he asked them to work out their salvation;  
he asked them to walk worthy of the gospel;  
he asked them learn from Jesus to be humble in their service;  
he asked them to run the race without looking backward;  
he asked them to stay in the race;  
he asked them to run the race together ...

He is now preparing them to face a tougher condition in the church. It looks like a division. He wants to remind them they are family, and families stand together. "Thus, stand firm together..., not any type of standing, stand IN the LORD."

## 2. Agree in the LORD

Համացայնեցէք, Նոյն խորհուրդը ունեցէք

<sup>2</sup>I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree (same in the mind) in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. (Philp 4:2-3 ESV)

Paul usually does not mention names. Here we see two names, (three, Clement). It seems there was some serious division in the church.

Who are these ladies?

- "**They labored side by side with me.**" This means they served with Paul; they have shared the struggle that Paul faced; like Lydia, most likely they were in the leadership of the church.

- "**Their names are in the book of life.**" We spoke about the heavenly citizenship earlier. Those women knew Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; they had dedicated their lives to Jesus.

- He is asking for help from the "**true companion**". Who is this true companion? Yokefellow, friend, collogue, companion. ...

We don't know;

people debate about this. Is this a person? A name? Maybe, also it could be the community of the church itself. "Hello, church of Philippi," Paul is saying, "**Help,**

this is an issue we need to deal with; there is an elephant in the room, we need to address this.”

- Perhaps Paul had this issue in his mind from the beginning when he was writing the letter. As I mentioned before, all those topics we discussed before, (walk worthy of the gospel, consider others more important and so on) the people of Philippi were maybe thinking, “OK Paul what about Euodia and Syntyche?”

What was the problem? Paul does not mention. Yet, Paul brings up this issue and he teaches them and us today that there could be different opinions the church. They could be different ways of looking to some issues. Whatever it was, it was disturbing the peace of the church, and it was threatening the unity of the church.

What is Paul asking them?

- **Agree in the Lord. Have same mind in the LORD**

Paul is not deciding who is right or wrong. He is not taking this or that side. “Learn to come to some kind of agreement in the LORD.” This is not saying, “Close your eyes toward different opinions.”

I believe he is asking them to have right heart, right attitude, a Christ-centered heart to face each other’s differences in the LORD.

- Please notice, in chapter 2 we learned from **Jesus who humbled himself**, and he became a servant who loved us and gave his life on the cross. We have our Lord as the **model of humility** who brought **real reconciliation, love, peace, and harmony.**

There will be disagreements, and you agree to disagree. Sometimes you can solve them and sometimes you cannot, but Jesus gives you the right attitude to face these challenges.

We lost this attitude these days in our world. How essential is this attitude when we have so much disagreements in church life.

Paul gives further instructions how to agree in the Lord.

### 3. Peace and Joy in the LORD

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**<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness (gentleness- NIV) be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philp 4:4-6 ESV)**

-Notice the imperative verbs described here:

Rejoice, Rejoice again,

be gentle, (reasonable)

do not be anxious,

pray in everything,

pray with thankful hearts and supplication;

let your heart be full of gratitude;

open your heart to God, make the requests be made known to Him...

Friends, those are not a to-do list. There is no formula.

**How to trade anxiety with JOY?**

Now what were those anxieties?

-Some of those anxieties could be caused by the disagreement of the two ladies in the church;

-Some of it could be how Rome was persecuting the church ... How long the church will suffer? How long?

Paul is giving the medicine.

**Let your reasonableness (gentleness- NIV) be known to everyone.**

**The Lord is at hand;**

Which means two things: Lord Jesus is here with us; He will help us.

Lord Jesus will return soon; be ready for his coming.

**-Pray...Pray...** bring your anxiety to the Lord in prayer and supplication.

I have witnessed this over and over how prayer changed me and changed my heart.

-Trade anxiety with the JOY and the PEACE of God. All those verbs he mentions, praying with thankfulness, praying with a heart that knows God will answer in His time bring real peace.

**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7 ESV)**

How precious are those words. Somehow, in all anxiety and turmoil, God will give an inner peace, which cannot be explained... the God-given peace will be your guard. Only Jesus will guard your mind and heart, your emotions and your thoughts.

Oh I need this peace....Oh I need the peace of Jesus in me, in my heart and mind and soul...

**Application:**

- Work on your attitude when you face disagreement. Agree in the LORD
- Humbly come to Jesus that changes your heart when you face challenges
- Trade anxiety with Peace of God

**Prayer**

Almighty God, we praise you for your abundant mercy and grace. We thank you for your faithfulness. Lord Jesus, we come to you with all our anxieties and ask you to give us peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. We ask you to remove everything that is robbing our joy.

Let your peace reign in our family, in our church, and our workplaces.

May your Word become a true blessing for us today.

AMEN

<sup>1</sup> Իմ սիրելի ու բաղձալի եղբայրներս, իմ ուրախութիւնս ու պսակս, այսպէս հաստատո՞ւն կեցէք Տէրոջմով, սի՛րելիներս:

<sup>2</sup> Եւոգիային կ'աղաչեմ ու Սիւնտիքին կ'աղաչեմ, որ միեւնոյն խորհուրդը ունենան Տէրոջմով: <sup>3</sup> Իրաւ քեզի՛ ալ կ'աղաչեմ, իմ հարազատ լծակիցս, դո՛ւն ալ օգնական եղիր անոնց, որոնք ինծի հետ աշխատեցան աւետարանին մէջ Կղեմէսին եւ միւս գործակիցներու հետ, որոնց անունները կենաց գրքին մէջ են: <sup>4</sup> Ուրախ եղէք Տէրոջմով ամէն ատեն. դարձեալ կ'ըսեմ, ուրա՛խ եղէք: <sup>5</sup> Ձեր քաղցրութիւնը ամէն մարդու թող յայտնի ըլլայ. Տէրը մօտ է: <sup>6</sup> Բանի մը համար հոգ մի՛ ընէք, հապա ամէն բանի մէջ աղօթքով ու աղաչանքով, գոհութիւնով մէկտեղ, ձեր խնդրանքը Աստուծոյ յայտնի ըլլայ: <sup>7</sup> Աստուծոյ խաղաղութիւնը, որ ամէն մտքէ վեր է, ձեր սրտերը ու մտքերը Յիսուս Քրիստոսով պիտի պահպանէ: