

## "The Pathway to Peace."

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Philippians 4:4-9

The peace of God is available to us as we rejoice, pursue gentleness, release anxiety, and pray. God wants us to experience His peace today!

### 1. Be joyful.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* V. 4

#### a. Joy and peace go together.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13

#### b. Jesus wants our joy and peace to overflow.

*I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!* John 15:11

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* John 16:33

### 2. Pursue gentleness.

*Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* V. 5

#### a. Trust in God's presence.

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.* Psalm 145:18

#### b. Rely on God's power.

*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.* Psalm 73:26

### 3. Release anxiety.

*Do not be anxious about anything...* V. 6a

#### a. God cares about you.

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:7

#### b. God knows what you need.

*...for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!* Matthew 6:8

### 4. Keep on praying!

*...but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* V. 6b

#### a. God's peace will guard you.

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* V. 7

#### b. Focus on the goodness of God.

*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.* V. 8

***Pray for opportunities this week to practice peace.***

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