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Third Issue

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AND

The GOD Of Peace
Will Be With
You.

ALWAYS
be full of joy
In the LORD.
I say it again—
Rejoice



The Bible verses found in Philippians 4:4-9 tell what we must do to experience God's peace. Here we are told that God wants us to live our lives in peace. Inner peace. Not a phony worked up look good kind of peace. Not peace bought with a pill or hypnosis. He wants to give us and guard us with His peace. He wants His peace to be with us, always. These verses tell us that God wants to give us peace. They tell what we must do to receive this peace. Here we have narrowed the passages down to five things that we are required to do to experience this most wonderful of emotional conditions.

- 1—Our attitude towards God must be one of joy. We must be excited about what He has planned for our lives.
- 2—We must be gentle and considerate of others.
- 3—Our prayer lives must be honest, whole-hearted, intense, thankful, and constant.
- 4—We must think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.
- 5—We must be living obedient lives for Jesus Christ.

Without gentleness, we will not have peace

Philippians 4:5 tells us to let our gentleness be evident to all. I don't know about you, but for me when I am competing I can become completely and totally self absorbed—gentleness and consideration of others can disappear. It is so easy to just think about what is best for me, for my horse, and my run. As this attitude grows inside my heart my thoughts for others become less and less. Soon others seem to be a distraction to what I am trying to accomplish. I don't care about anything but me and my run. God says this wrong. Jesus Christ

says that "they will know we are His disciples if we have love for one another". In Romans 12 it says "Don't pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." In Philippians 2 we are told to consider others more important than ourselves.

We must become diligent, persevering, and focused to win at barrel racing. But, in God's eyes, whenever we step over the line and let our diligence, perseverance, and focus cause us to become hardened and indifferent to others we are now sinning. God's peace will evaporate within us when we become inconsiderate and unloving of others!

It is so totally awesome when we feel the peace of God with us. It is just like Paul in Philippians says, "it is more wonderful than the human mind can understand." The sunsets are brighter and there is hope for the future. Excitement and a fervency for life evolves within us. To have God's peace is a privilege available to all.



Without prayer, we will not have the peace of God.

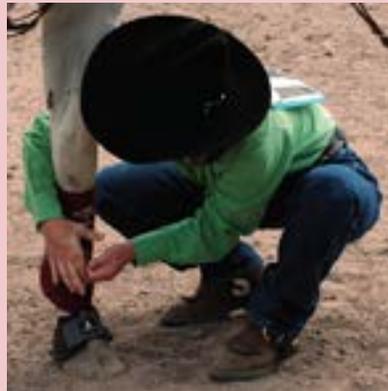
Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. Philippians 4:6 (message)

A man named E.M. Bounds spent the last fifteen years of his life studying prayer as discussed in the Bible. His book is nearly 600 pages long. What a privilege to be able to read what this man discovered in the pages of the Bible. Below are quotes from his book. The are in gray italics.



*The clear and oft repeated language of the Bible is that prayer is to be answered by God; that God occupies the relation of a father to us, and that as Father He gives to us when we ask the things for which we ask..**

We must look at God as our heavenly Father. He loves us and wants to give to us. He gives when we ask. Because He is the perfect Father he will only do what is best for His daughters. If our requests are harmful to us, He will deny the request. If our attitudes stink with sin – being selfish, arrogant, lazy, or insincere our prayers are not heard.





Prayer is the contact of a living soul with God. In prayer, God stoops to kiss man, to bless man, and to aid man in everything that God can devise or man can need.



*Prayer fills man's emptiness with God's fullness.**

*Nothing is more important to God than prayer in dealing with mankind.**

*He who does not pray, therefore robs himself of God's help and places God where he cannot help man.**

*If prayer puts God to work on earth, then, by the same token, prayerlessness rules God out of the world's affairs, and prevents him from working.**

God wants to hear our prayers, it is important to Him. Our heavenly Father wants to help and bless us. He

wants us to be the best we can be. We have to ask for His help or He watches as we stumble around looking for all that He can give us.

*The deeper the desire, the stronger the prayer. Without desire, prayer is a meaningless mumble of words. Such formal praying, with no heart, no feeling, no real desire accompanying it, is to be shunned like a pestilence. Its exercise is a waste of precious time and from it, no real blessing accrues.**

*The whole man must be given to God in praying. The largest results in praying come to him who gives himself all of himself, all that belongs to himself to God. This is a condition of successful praying and the sort of praying which brings the largest fruits.**

Energy, courage, and persistent perseverance must back the prayers which heaven respects, and God hears.

Intensity, fervency, desire, vigilance, perseverance describe the right attitude in praying. We have to care! We have to mean what we say! God doesn't care about the beautiful way we say our prayers, He cares about the heart in the prayer. It isn't the right words that get prayers answered, it is the right attitude in our hearts that gets answers. We have to give ourselves wholeheartedly in our praying if we are to pray successfully.

*The lack of obedience in our lives breaks down our praying. Disobedient living produces mighty poor praying. No man can pray—really pray—who does not obey.**

*Our hearts need much to be worked over, not only to get the evil out of them, but to get the good into them.**

God's obedient kids get their prayers answered! Many of us are Moms. We know what it is like to discipline our kids. We know that sometimes we have to say no. We know that when our kids are being good—obeying with the right attitude—we would give them anything within our power. God is like that with us. He will discipline us, to keep us from destroying ourselves. But when we are right, in our hearts, not just pretending to be good—God blesses; God answers.

In the New Living Bible the verses read like this, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

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can understand.

Philippians 4:7 (NLB)







Without right thinking, we will not have the peace of God.

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds
and meditating on things

True, Noble, Reputable, Authentic, Compelling, Gracious—

The best, not the worst

The beautiful, not the ugly

Things to praise, not things to curse.

Philippians 4:8 (message)



Without right thinking, we will not have the peace of God.

God wants each of us to be filled with peace. It is so incredible to think that God—the God of peace—will be with us. God Almighty being with us and guarding our hearts and minds is a privilege that every Christian can experience.

It sounds easy to say not to worry, but it can be so very hard to put it into practice. To live a life free from worry takes practice. I believe it was Martha Josey that told me a long time ago that when we practice barrel racing, we need to practice perfectly. When we practice doing the same things wrong over and over, then we won't compete as well as we could, nor will we ride our horse as well as we should. And the consequence is slower times and less wins. And so, we see here that God tells us to practice what we learn in the Bible.

As children, we copy the behavior of our parents. If we were raised in a solid Christian home then we learned as we grew how to act, how to live right. We practiced doing what we learned. But even if we would have had the most perfect parents in the entire world, we would still sin. Everyone has a sin nature. Sin looks fun and, as a matter of fact, is fun until we see the consequences of our wrong living. For various reasons, we all have practiced living wrong. But, God doesn't take excuses. He doesn't see us as victims. He tells us to practice right living.

God gave us the Bible as a guide for life. When we become Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit that comes and resides within us. He is there to guide and teach us about Jesus and how to live pleasing to Him. God listens to our prayers and will guide us in the right way. God helps us to live right.

As it takes time to become a good horsewoman, so it takes time to become a good Christian. God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but he does expect us to be teachable. We must be willing to learn and to change! Proverbs 29:1 says, "A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy." The Bible also says that anyone who hates correction is stupid. (Proverbs 12:1)

Every horse is different. Not many make great barrel horses. Many horses with great talent and ability just don't want to do it. They refuse to learn. Many of us have put our hopes and dreams into a young horse with absolutely great potential—but within a few months or years we find out he doesn't have any desire to do what we ask. What a waste of potential to see this horse waste away in a pasture, or to be sold to a trader for whatever. These stiff-necked untrainable horses are incredible examples to us of what we can or cannot be in the eyes of God. If we refuse to learn the ways of God, the Bible promises that our lives will not be very pleasant. God says we are stupid.

There are two other verses in Proverbs worth mentioning and for us to take our time to consider:
He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded. (Proverbs 13:13)
He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored. (Proverbs 13:18)

KEEP PUTTING
INTO PRACTICE
ALL YOU LEARNED FROM ME
AND HEARD FROM ME AND
SAW ME DOING...
Philippians 4:9



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We are an outreach ministry of
Rocky Mountain Calvary Chapel

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

And now, dear sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter.

Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right.

Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable.

Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and

heard from me and saw me doing, and

the GOD of peace will be with YOU.

