
The Missing Word in Possessing Peace

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

WHAT is that word? Why is it being missed by most Christians? Where is it found? Is it scriptural? Keep reading!

It does not take one long to realize there are few happy, peaceful, buoyant, satisfied and contented Christians in the world today. Why? One glimpse of the Bible informs us of God's provision for such a life. We have examples of biblical characters that portray both satisfied and fearful Christians. We are without an excuse if we allow circumstances and environmental factors to disquiet us. Almost every recorded heavenly revelation direct to man began with "FEAR NOT." In the chapter describing the glories of Heaven (the New Jerusalem), the Lord instructs us that the fearful and unbelieving (these two positions are inseparable) "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

"And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?" (Mark 4:40) This was the statement of Jesus Christ to His disciples immediately after producing a "great calm" involving the wind and waves.

God's Direction

Does it really make any difference to you that God instructs you to be peaceful, radiating a real testimony, becoming attractive to those who lack what you possess? Are you among the many who frantically go after counselors, ministers, and books to find some magic key to your problem of fear, anxiety and worry? Why not be honest and admit the reason for failure to find peace and satisfaction is a complete refusal on your part to put into practice the directions of a GOD OF PEACE? "Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen" (Romans 15:33).

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect (mature) in every good work TO DO His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory for ever and ever" (Hebrews 13:20,21). Please note that it is God who makes us mature, working in us the purpose of our being well pleasing in His sight. This is accomplished "through Jesus Christ."

The Bible contains an entire chapter on the subject of peace, with complete instruction to acquire such glorious provision. Do you know where it is found? How many times have you read it during your lifetime? You do not know where it is located? Is it any wonder peace and tranquility is a dream far removed from you?

If I were to tell you its location and give the main emphasis of the chapter, will you look it up and diligently study and put it into practice in your daily life? If you will not, then stop reading, start looking at television, for your condition will continue and grow steadily worse.

Philippians Chapter 4

This portion of God's Word is all you need to possess the peace and tranquility God has provided for you. Why waste your time in counseling sessions, trips to the psychologist's couch, and reading some other book? Few people will accept the direction of this chapter. If you are one of the exceptions, you will thank God during the rest of your life for this chapter of His wonderful Word.

Promise of Peace

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep (garrison) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). "...And the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9). "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

In this message the missing word for most people is in the comprehension of instruction. Here it is: "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, DO." (Philippians 4:9). That elusive word is "DO." In other words, put into practice that which God has told us TO DO. In this one verse we are instructed to do that which we have learned, received, heard and seen demonstrated in Paul's life. Immediately after urging us to practice these things, another promise of peace is ours. (Get your Bible open and see it for yourself.)

Explicit Directions

Let's stay in the fourth chapter of Philippians for awhile. Here are plain instructions: "Stand fast in the Lord" (Philippians 4:1). "Be of the same mind in the Lord" (Philippians 4:2). This is the answer for two people who are at odds with each other. As Christians, our unity is not in our different opinions but in the *one* Lord.

Another plain command is "rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Note that it does not say rejoice in circumstance or people on this earth. There is no other source of genuine delight other than the Lord Himself. We are to be "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

Our gentleness is to "be known unto all men" (Philippians 4:5). Now here comes the verse of instruction that most people fail to put into action: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:13). We are to stop worrying. This is God's command here as well as in John 14:1, 27: "Let not your heart be troubled."

Where did we get the idea that we need some other human to confide in? *Everybody needs a close friend.* Why, when we have a friend that sticketh closer to us than a brother? Need someone to be accountable to when God sees and knows all, and we, His children, are governed by one who desires us to do His will far more than we want to? His motivation is for His glory that He might freely give us all things without any violation to His justice.

Friend, when are you going to tell the Lord everything? Now you know this is His command in this verse. When are you going into action? You already have told your pastor and some relatives and yet you have not talked it over with the Lord. Your telling Him everything is not for God's benefit, but yours. He already knows all you are going to tell Him.

We are to give Him our petition with thanksgiving. Few spend more time thanking Him than asking petitions. One reason for little thanksgiving in our prayer is that we don't expect anything much to happen anyway. We are to make our requests known to the Lord, not some human being. Spend time with Him! Voice all our anxieties (as a Christian we should have none) to the Lord! This is His plain command! We need no one but the Lord Himself if we are to bare our soul (whatever that may mean). At times we may need someone to chat with, who is close to God and desires His plan and purpose to be accomplished in our life, but we must be careful who we talk to.

Until you practice the instructions of Philippians 4:6, the promise of peace in the next verse will never be yours. Peace is the consequence of what we do in obedience. God gives us peace upon our resignation to His direction.

Your Thinking Process

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **THINK ON THESE THINGS**" (Philippians 4:8). The original language indicates that since there is praise and virtue, you should be thinking on these things. But some of you are not practicing this exercise. You are keeping your mind on the negative things around you. You know the latest murder episode. If you cannot find it in the news, you keep up with the fictitious ones on TV. You join the passengers hurtling through the air in the most recent airplane crash. You love to read or hear about other people's problems because it makes yours seem less. Instead of enjoying the donut, you gripe because the center hole is so large. You buy the magazines about other people rather than finding your satisfaction and companionship with the Lord Himself.

You know the immoral Hollywood personalities better than you know David, Moses, or the Apostle Paul.

What are you thinking about? Peace will continue to elude you unless you think about that which is told you in verse 8: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Source of Peace

Remember the two earlier verses announcing peace? It is the PEACE OF GOD (Philippians 4:7, 9). This wonderful tranquil position is the consequence of a relationship. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7). "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).

I am about to stop this dissertation. Are you going to start DOING the plain instruction of this fourth chapter of Philippians? I can hear someone say, *I would if I could! I will try!* Forget your excuses for past, present and future failure. If you are a Christian, you CAN DO IT. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

If you will daily practice the instructions of this chapter, peace will be communicated your way. If you believe God, you will follow His instructions. Everyone around you will notice the difference when you stop worrying and begin to rejoice. I hope they survive the shock!

Additional free copies of this message are available. It is a reprint from our free publication, THE CHALLENGER. Also, available are nine free lessons of our free Home Bible Study Course.

The Hour of Grace & Power
PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900
www.thehourofgraceandpower.org