



May 5th, 2024 • Philippians 4:4-7

Page 982 in the church Bibles • The Fruit of the Spirit
Message #3 “Peace” • Theme Verses: Galatians 5:22-23
by Pastor Marcus Johnson



Audio versions of Sermons and detailed sermon notes are available on our
website: LakeRegionBibleChurch.org (see “Messages 2024” tab)

Rejoicing, Praying & Guarded by the Peace of God

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23 ESV)

1. Paul’s Christ-centered Exhortation (vs4-6)

- rejoice in the Lord always (v4)
 - let your reasonableness be known to everyone (v5)
 - the Lord is at hand (v5)
 - do not be anxious about anything (v6)
 - let your requests be made known to God (v6)
(in everything, by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving)
- ### 2. Paul’s Christ-centered Promise (v7)
- the peace of God...

- the peace of God surpasses all understanding

- the peace of God will guard your hearts & minds in Christ Jesus

Excursus: Joy & Peace in the Christian Life

Quotes below by Gordon D. Fee; *Paul’s Letter to the Philippians*, © 1995 (NICNT)

“Joy” unmitigated, untrammled joy, is – or at least should be – the distinctive mark of the believer in Christ Jesus ... Paul the theologian of grace is equally the theologian of joy. Christian joy is not the temporal kind, which comes and goes with one’s circumstances; rather, it is predicated altogether on one’s relationship *with the Lord*, and is thus an abiding, deeply spiritual quality of life. It finds expression in “rejoicing,” which is not a Christian option, but an imperative. With its concentration “in the Lord,” rejoicing is “always” to mark their individual and corporate life in Philippi. The presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in their midst meant that experience of joy, whatever else may be their lot. In this letter the “whatever else” includes opposition and suffering at the hands of the local citizens of the empire, where Caesar was honored as “lord.” In the face of such, they are to “rejoice in *the Lord always*.” (p. 404) [Notes below in brackets are mine/not author’s]

Joy, prayer, thanksgiving, peace – these identify Pauline spirituality. Such lives are further marked by gentle forbearance [“reasonableness” ESV] and no anxiety. The key lies with the indicative, “the Lord is near” [“at hand” ESV] – now and to come. The Lord is now present by his Spirit ... Here is God’s ultimate gift to those who trust in Christ, *shalom* [peace] and joy. In a post-Christian, post-modern world, which has generally lost its bearings because it has generally abandoned its God, such spirituality is very often the key to effective evangelism. In a world where fear is a much greater reality than joy, our privilege is to live out the gospel of true *shalom*, wholeness in every sense of that word, and to point others to its source. We can do that because “the Lord is near” in the first sense, by the Spirit who turns our present circumstances into joy and peace, and who prompts our prayer and thanksgiving. And we should be at that task with greater concern than many of us are, because “the Lord is near” in the eschatological [end-times] sense as well. (p. 412-13)