

## FREE IN GOD'S PEACE

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020

### *Philippians 4:4-7*

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. “*

Growing up in my parents' household I learned to find my security in money, and therefore in work. Years later, I found myself suddenly in danger of losing my job. I was trapped in so much fear for my life and noticed how trapped I felt in my job! I was deeply afraid of any further mistakes and failure because I need to be able to provide for my family. But praise be to God! He replaced my despair with freedom and joy as I trusted in these verses and turned to Him in prayer!

I encourage you to spend time today in prayer, accepting this profound freedom God promises us through these verses. Remember, Paul was sitting in prison as he wrote these words, knowing he could soon die, and yet he writes nothing of fear here! No, he writes of **joy** and that we shouldn't be anxious about anything.

Where do you feel trapped, or where have you trapped yourself? Come before the Lord and call on Him! Let Him hear it from your mouth... in thanksgiving?! You can thank him that He knows all about your situation. Indeed, He is the One who allowed it to happen **for a good reason**, not to harm you! On the contrary, He wants to give you freedom. He wants to free you from your fear as He tells you, “Do not be anxious about anything!” Because He wants to take care of you! As His child **you can rejoice in Him and thank Him!**

Sometimes we don't get exactly what we ask Him for, or rather, what we think we need. But one thing is for sure, that He gives us exactly what He knows we need. This often requires **a lot** of patience on our part! But what He wants to give us through these verses immediately is this: Peace in Him! Rejoice that you belong to the Lord and that you may have this privilege! Who could possibly know better what you need than the One who wonderfully created you and who knows you inside and out?

When we understand this, God's peace, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds against the doubts and fears that try to spread themselves inside us like cancer as we carry the burdens of this world. Do you want His peace to free you from your worries?

Several weeks had passed before I was informed I could keep my job. But despite the uncertainty up to that point, I wasn't even worried anymore; through thanksgiving, the Lord protected my heart and mind from the fear of losing my security. In hindsight I can see He allowed me to go through this painful time in order to free me. Because to this day I can go to work without feeling trapped. Because what could happen to us?

***The Lord is our security!***

***Prayer:*** Lord, I thank You for Your grace and faithfulness. You know me perfectly and already knew where I was trapped me, or where I trapped myself, before I even recognized it. You have my best in mind and don't want us to be trapped in fear any longer. You, Lord, have freed us! Thank You that we may have true joy and peace through You. Please help us to let go of our anxieties in thanksgiving, and to allow Your peace to protect us. Amen.

-Angie Grigg-

