

# THE PEACE OF GOD

Philippians 4:1-9

Did you ever notice that there is always something to worry about? Anxiety seems to be an unrelenting predator that wants to destroy our joy.

However, there is a supernatural peace that is available to us from God. Peace is the supernatural empowering of the Holy Spirit that confirms in our hearts and minds when we realize at a deep level that **God always has our best interest at heart and always protects us.** This peace is ours, but it is NOT automatic.

**“Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.”** Phil. 4:2-3 NLT

Euodia and Syntyche partnered in the gospel and their names are written the Book of Life. Yet their names also made it in the Bible as two people who couldn't get along (Phil. 2:2). Though they were “strong Christians” they were causing stress and division. Just living in Philippi was stressful enough. The people were prone to rioting (Acts 16). Anxiety on the outside can increase stress on the inside. Euodia and Syntyche were apparently good Christian ladies, but they didn't have peace.

You can be a strong Christian, someone who belongs to the Lord and still let anxiety get the best of you. But you don't have to live with that anxiety anymore. Peace is yours, but it is not automatic. You must build the peace in your hearts and minds.

I used to love seeing rabbits in our yard. However, now that I have a garden- that enjoyment is gone. I see them as predators that want to steal the fruit of my labor. I found myself lying in bed worrying if my garden was vulnerable to attack. Fortunately, there was already everything that I needed in my backyard to protect my garden. There was an old fence. I just needed to build it around my garden.

There is protection for us from the anxieties that are like predators that want to steal our joy. We already have it, but we do need to do our part in building it.

Anxiety can be replaced with joy (Phil. 4:4), but faith doesn't work unless you work it.

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”** Phil. 4:6 NIV

1. **Apply Your \_\_\_\_\_**: Start building your fence by praying. Prayer is like the posts that hold up the fence. Make it a practice to thank God for your many blessings and offer Him your worries. Thank Him that no matter how He responds to your prayers since He always has your best interest at heart.

**“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right...”** Phil. 4:8b NLT

2. **Focus Your \_\_\_\_\_**: Drag the fence to your garden and attach it with screws. Attach truth, honor and uprightness to the posts of prayer by intently keeping them in your mind. Focusing on truth, honor and goodness make your joy impenetrable to all predators. The Bible is God's Word and it is trustworthy to guide us in what is true.

**“...whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”** Phil. 4:8c

Focusing our minds on what is lovely, admirable and worthy of praise should not be that hard. Focus your heart on God. In all lovely things you enjoy in your life, connect them to God. Don't empty your mind, keep it occupied with the good things in your life and screw them into the posts of your faith as gifts from God.

To the degree you believe that God has your best interest in heart - you will have peace. That is your fence.

- a. God works out all things for the good to those who \_\_\_\_\_ God.

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Fill in the Blank answers: 1. Faith, 2. Mind, 2a. love