

THE PRAYER GOD HEARS III



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Thankful

Pastor Brett Fuller, November 18, 2012

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Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Paul is concluding with remarks about how we approach God.

I. Resist Anxiety; **vs. 6**

- A. We may think it's important to be "concerned" where really there is no line between "concern" and "worry". Our "concern" conveys, in a false way, that we are not careless.
- B. So much of our prayer, most of it, is coming to God with anxiety.
- C. Yet anxiety accuses God that He is not "on the job"; when we approach God with fear denies, fails to recognize the faithful track record of God.

- D. Worry, fear denies the watchful care of God that has ministered to you over & over.
- E. Fear, anxiety begs the question of us, "Where did your faith go?" God responds to us continually with faithfulness and care
- F. We resist anxiety by remembering what God has done & his faithfulness

II. Request Of God; vs. 6

A. Prayer – The manner by which you do your life

- a. Not a monologue – there is to be a 2-way interaction
- b. We are to relate to God in a respectful, honoring way; "let your words [w/ God] be few"
- c. How is your devotional life?
 - i. Do you read the Word and then pray back what you've heard
 - ii. Do you pray without ceasing – continually communicating with Him

B. Supplication – prayer when there is a serious need

- a. There is a difference between the anxiety and faith – what does it sound like when you supplicate?
- b. Supplication has force behind the prayer but with a confidence that God can & will come insert himself into the situation.

C. Both With Thanksgiving – affirming the goodness of God to us

- a. When we don't have what we want, we tend to accuse him of not providing
- b. MATT 6 tells us how we are to respond to "lack" – by affirming that the birds of the air and the grass of the fields are provided for. God is faithful.
- c. Our prayer is to be intentionally blended with thanksgiving; thanking God for his protection, his basic provision; Job is the story of God lifting his protection and what that looks like. The enemy seeks to destroy us because we bear God's image and his intent is to destroy us because of that. Our prayer should be continually

offered with a view to God's continuous protection.

- d. Thanksgiving should continually be offered for his goodness – for what He has done and what He has kept us from.
- e. In thanking him, we are reminded of the faithfulness of God's nature; "if He has provided for me thus far, He will do even more in the future."

D. Recognize God's Peace; **vs. 7** – doing these things – offering prayer, supplications with thanksgiving – builds an "on ramp" for peace.

- a. You are positioned for encountering whatever comes
- b. The kind of peace He gives is "superior" to your understanding, what you can see. His peace gives you a perspective; it guards your heart & mind like a sentry who is always vigilant, guarding you.
- c. Where you hear your own voice, the voice of circumstance or that others, the peace of God will rule, will "umpire" your thoughts and attend to your thoughts.
- d. We need to address our own hearts – speaking forcefully to ourselves.

A. Surpasses Comprehension

- a. Faith begins to arise from your hearts that informs your mind.

B. Guardian Of Our Heart

B. Guardian Of Our Mind

- a. Peace guards your heart, your mind – your thought life.
- b. The on-ramp of peace in our life establishes us in the inner life.