

Philippians 4

Faith & Reason Go Together

- In Isaiah 1:18, we read, “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD”
- Jesus said, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:27).
- The book of Philippians contains a surprising number of references to the mind.

References to the Mind in Philippians

- 2:2—Be of the same MIND.
- 2:3—Have lowliness of MIND.
- 2:5—Let this MIND be in you which was in Christ.
- 3:15—Have this MIND (said twice).
- 3:19—Enemies of Christ have their MINDS set on earthly things.

References to the Mind in Philippians

- 4:2—Be of the same MIND.
- 4:7—God's peace guards the MIND.
- 4:8—Let your MIND dwell on good things.

Philippians 1: The Single Mind

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Php 1:27).

Philippians 2: The Submissive Mind

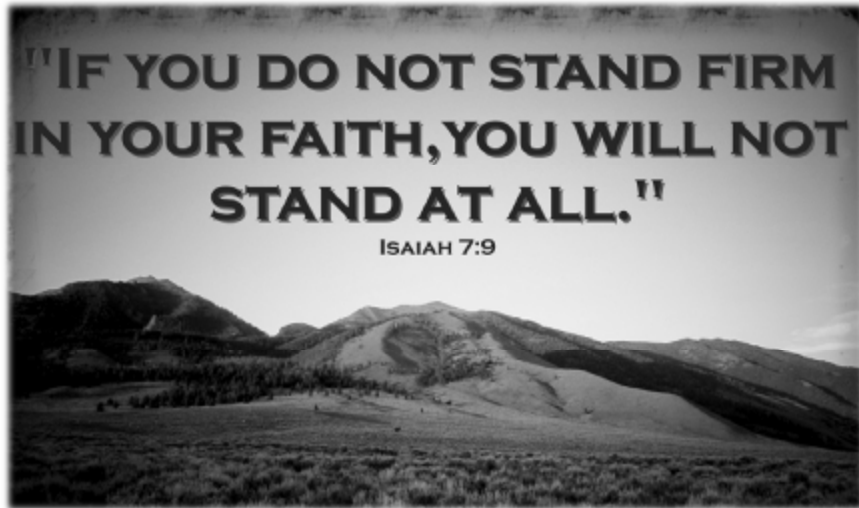
Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, [Who] . . . humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Php. 2, 8).

Philippians 3: The Spiritual Mind

that I may know Him . . . I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Php. 3:10, 14).

Philippians 4: The Secure Mind

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Php 4:7).



Stand Firm in the Lord (4:1)

- As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are **standing firm** in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel (Php. 1:27, CSB).
- For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him (Php. 2:13, NLT).

How Paul Helps Euodia & Syntyche

- Since the dispute is public, he deals with it publicly.
- He is loving and positive.
- He urges them to be of the same mind in the Lord—not for Paul’s sake or even the church’s sake, but for the Lord’s sake.
- He urges them to do the right thing without chiding them or ordering them.

How Paul Helps Euodia & Syntyche

- He reminds them and others that they have been Paul’s fellow workers, thus, focusing on the positive.
- He reminds them that their names are in the book of life, that they belong to God & should act like God’s children.
- He doesn’t go into specifics.
- He doesn’t take sides.
- He asks that his “true companion” help them.

The Theme of Philippians

A Christlike Model of Joyful Maturity

Greek *epieikes* (Php. 4:5)

- Gentleness
- Gentle Spirit
- Sweet Reasonableness
- Graciousness
- Moderation
- Considerate Spirit
- Forbearance
- Unselfishness
- Kindness
- Modesty
- Patience
- Fairmindedness

How to Have God's Peace

- I. The Command: Don't worry about anything (4:6).
- II. The Solution (4:6)
 - A. Prayer (general term)
 - B. Supplication (begging, expressing need)
 - C. Thanksgiving (gratitude)
 - D. Requests (specifics; James 4:2b)

How to Have God's Peace

- III. The Result (4:7)
 - A. The peace of God which surpasses all understanding
 - B. A guarded heart and mind
- IV. Future Protection from Anxiety
 - A. A disciplined thought life (4:8)
 - B. Obedience, practice (4:9)

Two Kinds of Peace

PEACE WITH GOD

- Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

PEACE OF GOD

- And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Php. 4:7)

Philippians 4:7 and 4:9

Not only do we have the peace of God, but we have the promise that the God of peace will be with us!

God Supplies Needs

- God knows what is truly a need and what is a desire. (Often, He graciously grants more than what we need.)
- God's gift of salvation is our most important need.
- If a believer has a physical need, she should give other believers the opportunity to be a blessing to her. Often the ones who need help the most are the most reluctant to ask.

Lessons

- Stand firm in the Lord's strength (4:1).
- Admit problems with other Christians and seek unity for the Lord's sake (4:2-3).
- Rejoice in the Lord (4:4).
- Stop worrying (4:6-9).
- Have you learned contentment? (4:11)
- Do what God calls you to do in His strength (4:13).
- Is your name in the book of life? Do others know it is? (4:3).