



A Spirit of Thanksgiving

By Ken Terry on July 26, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Philippians 4

The Apostle Paul's life was not easy. Paul went from being a Jewish elite, to a man without substance, status or wealth. Paul was beaten and imprisoned all for the sake of Christ Jesus. How many of us are willing to suffer to the extent of losing everything we have for the sake of Christ? It will take a self-examination of one's life to ensure we are living up to our calling in Christ. I feel that is what the apostle Paul is encouraging us to do in this letter, where are you in Christ. I think the only way we can feel connected to Christ is to surrender fully to Him. This is done by putting Christ first in your life.

This, my friends, will give you the contentment you need in this world of anxious, angry and selfish individuals. As in Paul's example, we must not allow ourselves to be caught up in the day-to-day activities that demand so much of our energy and time. We must place Christ first in our lives. This will enable His Spirit to manifest itself within the followers of Christ. This places us on a different level of consciousness where we see the world around us differently, having more of a biblical worldview. That was Paul's experience and why he could encourage all who would follow Jesus this way.

"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 understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV).

My friends, it is the peace of God that we seek. It is the joy that surpasses all understanding that provides us the contentment in ALL THINGS. You see our joy and happiness will not depend on people, places, and things, but more so on the things we choose to focus on.

". . . whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8 NKJV).

Looking at our world through the lens of Jesus and having a renewed mind in Christ, we become more like our Lord and Savior. This, my friends, enables the believer to grow stronger

and dive deeper in Christ, which makes our very existence glorious as we walk in Him. Are you ready to make that leap of faith as the apostle Paul did? If so, let Paul's words in this next passage fill your heart and mind.

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. [20] Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Philippians 4:19-20 NKJV).

PRAYER: Our Father in the Heavens, Jehovah God, thank You for Your loving Holy Spirit that indwells me. Father, please fill my heart and mind, then lead me in all things Jesus. Father, help me learn how to fully surrender, so I can be Spirit-led as I walk with Jesus. Amen

TOMORROW'S READING: Philemon

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