

1. Peace with God (Philippians 4:1-7)

Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (NKJV)

a. Stand Fast in the Lord.

- i. This passage of Scripture commands us to stand fast. To stand fast in the Lord requires us to be of the same mind (unity), to rejoice in God, and to display (be a testimony of) His gentleness.
- ii. The context of this passage is a two-fold command. "Stand fast for the Lord is at hand." This is a call to urgency in the Spirit.
- iii. For this reason the very next command is "to be anxious for nothing." In moments of urgency, it is a flesh response to be anxious. The faith response is to make our requests known to God in the context of prayer, supplication (humble, earnest request), and thanksgiving.
- iv. An outward (corporate) expression of faith demonstrated by unity, rejoicing, and gentleness, combined with the upward expression of faith demonstrated by prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving, creates the perfect spiritual environment for accessing the ever-present peace of God.

b. Faith in God

- i. This teaching touches on a most basic Christian doctrine: Faith in God. (Heb 6)
- ii. We have peace with God because of the finished work of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross. Works do not save us, but we have been saved to do good works and enjoy fellowship with God. (Ephesians 2:1-18)
- iii. As we know, we have the peace of God through faith in Christ. Faith in Christ gives us complete access to His perfect peace.
- iv. If this is so, then there is great grace available to us so that we may enter into a lifestyle of standing fast in the Lord. The beauty of faith is that when we make even a weak effort to obey God, He moves heaven and earth so that we can draw near to Him with boldness.

c. Surpassing All Understanding

- i. One of the amazing aspects of God is that He continually demonstrates His power and glory in such a way that we can fully realize it while never fully understanding it.
- ii. He does this not to confuse us, but to cultivate trust. God is always greater than the obstacles we face. He is always more

powerful than our adversary. He is infinite in His wisdom, infinite in glory, and infinite in love.

- iii. His peace is greater than anything our minds can fully understand, but what we do know is that peace guards our hearts and minds from the attack of the enemy and the lusts of the flesh.

2. The Righteousness of Christ (Philippians 1:1-11)

Philippians 1:9-11 "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (NKJV)

a. The Fruit of Righteousness

- i. When we live by the Spirit of God, the righteousness of Christ bears fruit in our lives. While we were yet sinners, God made a way for us to stand righteous before Him, to His glory and praise.
- ii. When we are filled with the fruits of righteousness, we are actually able to approve (declare and witness on earth) excellent things (the perfect will of God).
- iii. As the fruit of righteousness grows in our lives, it will be made evident (manifest) by a knowledgeable and discerning love.
- iv. This affects our intercession because we can more effectively pray, declare, and prophesy the will of God. We transition from a place of praying only because we know we're called, to praying because we truly love what He loves.
- v. Simply put, the fruits of righteousness align us with God's heart and agenda, while deepening our intimacy with God.

b. Jesus Always Finishes What He Starts

- i. We know that by His life, death, resurrection, Jesus always finishes the work that is given to Him. If He is able to complete the work of salvation and righteousness for all who would call on His name, then He is more than able to fulfill the work that He began in us.
- ii. For this reason, the righteousness of Christ makes us confident in God. The deeper we press in to this truth, the greater we can realize our power over the enemy. God did not give us the keys of the kingdom so that we would shrink back in fear.
- iii. We are continually being conformed into the image of Christ. If He is righteous, then we are also called to be righteous. The Holy Spirit will not rest until He finishes this work.

3. The Breastplate of Righteousness (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Ephesians 6:14 "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness." (NKJV)

- a. Proverbs 4:23 teaches us to guard our hearts, for out of our hearts spring forth all of life's issues.
 - i. We guard our hearts by putting on the breastplate of righteousness, which is the righteousness of Christ.
 - ii. This is central to our call as intercessors, for if we bear the fruit of righteousness, our prayers are great in power. (James 5:16)

James 5:16 "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (NKJV)

- iii. We must also learn to love repentance. Often, I feel like the word 'repent' is treated like a dirty word, but in all truth it is a beautiful and essential act of faith.
- b. When we repent, we:
 - i. Stand pure and righteous before God.
 - ii. We are healed from the effects of sin.
 - iii. Our prayers are heard and answered with power from Heaven.
- c. Do Not Give Satan a Foothold
 - i. When we do intercession, we wage war in the heavenly realms. If we access the righteousness of Christ by faith and repentance, we must actively check ourselves before the Lord.
 - ii. We are ineffective against the enemy if our lives are not in order, and in fact, we may come under demonic oppression, or even condemnation.
 - iii. We must remember that genuine repentance ALWAYS restores us to a right relationship with God. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - iv. Before we enter into intercession, we should always ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything of which we need to repent. Through repentance, we remove any foothold of Satan.

"The righteousness of Christ is the guardian of our hearts. By His righteousness we may stand faithfully in intercession, knowing the full effect of His finished work on the cross, and our great power over the kingdom of darkness."