

Carefree in Prayer

July 31, 2016

Philippians 4:6 NASB

6 **BE ANXIOUS** (*merimnaō* - troubled with cares, translated 11 times in NT as "worry") **FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER** (*proseuchē* - general prayer addressed to God) **AND SUPPLICATION** (*deesis* - specific prayer for specific needs) **WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS** (*aitēma* - petition, a thing asked) **BE MADE KNOWN** (*gnōrizō* - from "ginosko", to come to know, learn to know, get knowledge of) **TO GOD.**

The language and context of verse 6 requires detailed communication and time.

To be truly care-free, with not even one worry, is the standard. The presence of anxiety and fear reveals one fact: we haven't been with God enough, we haven't communed and communicated with God enough, we need to pray far more.

You pray until the fear and the burden have lifted. If they haven't lifted, pray until they do. Trust in God takes away the burden, but you don't trust whom you don't know.

Psalms 62:8 NASB

"Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour (*shaphak* - to gush until empty) out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah."

It's never that you're wrestling with God for an answer, but rather, you are wrestling to get beyond your own humanity and flesh.

Hebrews 5:7 NASB

"In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety."

Luke 18:1 NASB

"Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart."

James 1:5 NASB

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Psalms 142:1-7 NASB

1 Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

I cry aloud with my voice to the LORD; I make supplication with my voice to the LORD.

2 I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him.

3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. In the way where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

4 Look to the right and see; for there is no one who regards me; there is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul.

5 I cried out to You, O LORD; I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

6 "Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

7 Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name; the righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

E.M. Bounds

Edward McKendree Bounds was a chaplain in the Confederate Army (even though he opposed slavery). After the war, he pastored in the South to help rebuild the South spiritually. He would rise early every morning and pray from 4:00 to 7:00 AM. He wrote ten books, eight of which were on the topic of prayer.

“The goal of prayer is the ear of God, a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight.”

“It is hard to wait and press and pray, and hear no voice, but stay till God answers.”

“Prayer is a trade to be learned. We must be apprentices and serve our time at it. Painstaking care, much thought, practice and labour are required to be a skillful tradesman in praying. Practice in this, as well as in all other trades, makes perfect.”

“What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use — men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men, men of prayer.”

Philippians 4:5-9 NASB

7 **AND THE PEACE** (*eirēnē* - tranquility, safety, security) **OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL COMPREHENSION** (*nous* - the mind, faculties of perceiving and understanding), **WILL GUARD** (*phroureō* - protect, prevent hostile invasion, preserve, keep under control) **YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.**

The peace from God never turns a blind eye to reality. The peace from God never denies the existence of evil, trouble or trial. The peace from God guards the heart and mind even when confronted with trouble face-to-face. You see the trouble, you understand the danger, but you are not worried nor afraid. Even before your executioner, like Stephen in Acts, you have no fear in the very face of death.

Acts 7:54-56 NASB

54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him.

55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Isaiah 43:2 NASB "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you."

Psalm 23:4 NASB

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

Philippians 4:5-9 NASB

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **DWELL** (*logizomai* - to count, compute, calculate, count over, number) **ON THESE THINGS.**

9 THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND RECEIVED AND HEARD AND SEEN IN ME, **PRACTICE** (*prassō - practice, exercise, be busy with, carry on, perpetuate*) **THESE THINGS**, and **THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU.**

The Epistle to the Philippians is a living record where we can learn, receive, hear and see Paul exemplify the very principles he is teaching!

THE GOSPEL SPREAD or *"I can never show my face in public again!"*

Philippians 1:12-13 NASB

12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

THE FAITH OF MANY EMBOLDENED or *"Why do I have to suffer?" "Why are they still free?"*

Philippians 1:14 NASB

14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

THE LOVE OF MANY DEMONSTRATED or *"Now I'm sidelined and passed-over. They are surpassing me!"*

Philippians 1:15 NASB

15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

CHRIST IS PREACHED or *"No one will see my greatness, only their greatness!"*

Philippians 1:17 NASB

17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED or *"After all I've done, this is what I get!"*

Philippians 1:19 NASB

19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

PURPOSE OF LIFE AND THE REWARD OF DEATH CLARIFIED or *"This isn't fair. I'm gonna die!"*

Philippians 1:21 NASB

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

EARTHLY MISSION CLARIFIED or *"I might as well give up and die! My mission and purpose are finished! No one needs me."*

Philippians 1:22 NASB

22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

FEARLESSNESS IS CONTAGIOUS or *"Keep the peace! Don't offend! Don't draw attention! Compromise and tone down the message!"*

Philippians 1:27 NASB

27 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;

28 in no way alarmed by your opponents--which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

2 Corinthians 4:7 NASB

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **SO THAT THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF THE POWER WILL BE OF GOD AND NOT FROM OURSELVES;**

8 **WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT DESPAIRING;**

9 **PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED;**

10 **ALWAYS CARRYING ABOUT IN THE BODY THE DYING OF JESUS, SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS ALSO MAY BE MANIFESTED IN OUR BODY.**

11 **FOR WE WHO LIVE ARE CONSTANTLY BEING DELIVERED OVER TO DEATH FOR JESUS' SAKE, SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS ALSO MAY BE MANIFESTED IN OUR MORTAL FLESH.**

How do we not lose heart in the midst of the trial? How are we not destroyed by worry and fear?

16 **THEREFORE WE DO NOT LOSE HEART, BUT THOUGH OUR OUTER MAN IS DECAYING, YET OUR INNER MAN IS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY.**

17 **FOR MOMENTARY, LIGHT AFFLICTION IS PRODUCING FOR US AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY FAR BEYOND ALL COMPARISON,**

18 **WHILE WE LOOK NOT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN, BUT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN; FOR THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN ARE TEMPORAL, BUT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN ARE ETERNAL.**

You will never receive the eternal weight of glory without being able to see the unseen. And you will never see the unseen without waiting on God and wrestling in prayer, never fainting until you receive the answer.