

## Peace Beyond All Comprehension

August 14, 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.**

### Points in Review:

1. The presence of anxiety, worry and fear means we have not prayed enough; we haven't heard His voice, His presence has not silenced the fear, the burden has not been lifted, the care has not been cast on Him, we are not carefree and at peace.
2. We must persevere in prayer, not warring with God but warring through our own humanity, carnality and unbelief, until we encounter His presence, hear His voice clearly and the burden of anxiety is removed.
3. We are to pour out our hearts to Him in detailed supplication, surrendering our hearts, giving the Holy Spirit full access to work within us.

#### 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 beyond all comprehension manifests in two ways:

### 1. The reassurance and comfort of His nearness that can only be found in prayer.

Acts 7:54-60 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."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

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."

Psalms 23:4 NASB

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

### 2. Seeing God at work through the trial, in the adversity and surrendering to His work. That heavenly perspective is only possible in prayer.

**Peace never comes through denial or ignoring the circumstances. Peace sees the circumstances, realizes the dangers, but knows that God is in control and uses all things for His purposes.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 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.**

*Through the trials and circumstances of life, God delivers us into impossible and desperate situations, beyond all hope of natural ingenuity, strength or resources. His purpose is to deliver us miraculously by demonstrating in us His power. But 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.*

#### **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!" Paul was willing to be humiliated if it meant Christ would be known.

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.