

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Tell God Everything

Lesson Forty-Three

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Goal: To teach students full faith, encouraging them to confide in God.

Scriptures: Philippians 4:6, 7

For Memory: “Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
Philippians 4:6, 7

Tell God Everything

In our last lesson, we were reminded that God is near; that can be seen as a threat. (Like: God is looking over your shoulder, so don't misbehave.) God's nearness can also be seen as a promise. (Like: God is looking over your shoulder, He knows what's going on and He cares a lot about your being OK.)

We all know that God knows everything. We know that there is absolutely nothing that can be hidden from Him. So why is Paul encouraging the Philippians to tell God everything? Well, since God knows everything, and us telling Him something isn't going to change that, it must be for our own good.*

Paul begins our memory verse with, “Do not be anxious about anything.” Do you ever feel like you are being pulled in all directions? Well, that is what this word anxious means. We think that we ought to do something, but then we are fearful that it won't work out right. Or, we want to please someone, but if we do, we just might make someone else unhappy. We feel that we are being pulled apart sometimes. We worry. Did you know that the word worry used to mean “to strangle.” Do you get it? Paul told the Philippians that he understood that they were being pulled apart...that they felt like they were being strangled.

You know, you can make yourself sick worrying. Anxiety, worry, is powerful. When Paul wrote his friends in Philippi, he knew that they were under a lot of stress. He has said over and over again in this letter that they should have joy in Christian living. But, he was no “Pollyanna,” telling them that they had nothing to worry about. He knew that their troubles and trials were real.

He said, don't let it get to you! Instead, God will be with you in the problems of life...in all the difficult stuff. There is good advice in I Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” For Christians, worrying or being anxious all the time is thinking and feeling the wrong way. When we think that we are all alone in our troubles, when we feel that we have to take care of it all by ourselves, we don't understand God's love and care.

So, instead of praying only about the big things, we should also pray about the little

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things before they become big things. Pray about everything. Just think, God has invited you to bow down, fall face down, sit down, or even stand, arms stretched to the sky, and tell God everything that is on your mind. That kind of praying brings real joy! Paul says that when we tell God everything it includes petition (asking God for things), and thanksgiving for what God has done, is doing, and will do.

That kind of praying brings peace, actually, the “peace of God.” And that peace is like a strong force field around you protecting you from all the bad stuff in life. Paul says that you may not understand it, but that doesn’t change a thing. God’s peace guards your heart, that is the feeling part of you, and guards your mind, that is the thinking part of you. We said earlier that being anxious all the time was bad thinking and feeling for the Christian. When we are totally surrendered to and telling everything to God, He guards us, and we can think freely and feel without fear.

Remember, peace as Paul used it, doesn’t just mean freedom from trouble, it means confidence in God, in life and even in death. It is the reason for joy. If you want peace of both mind and heart, tell God everything.

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.



Teaching Tips:

1. For a good illustration of peace through prayer, look up the story of Daniel: Daniel 6:1-10. Daniel had peace, even when his life was threatened. On the other hand, the Persian king couldn’t sleep: Daniel 6:18
2. Warren Wiersby says that in Philippians chapter one we are encouraged to be *single-minded*, chapter two is about the *submissive mind*, and chapter three discusses the *spiritual mind*. If we practice what is in chapters one, two and three, we are going to experience the *secure mind* of chapter four.
3. Songs about joy, prayer, the answer to prayer, submission, thanksgiving, and the protection of God are appropriate with today’s lesson. “Father, I adore you.”
4. Pray with your students: Thank God for giving us joy and confidence in His protection. Thank God for wanting to hear even the most insignificant of our concerns. Ask Him to show us His peace even when everything is going the wrong way.
5. Romans 5:1 will provide you with another statement of Paul on the subject of peace and the availability of peace through faith in Jesus.

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Student Worksheet

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Tell God Everything

=Why is Paul encouraging the Philippians to tell God _____? Well, since God knows _____, and us telling Him something isn't going to change that, it must be for _____ own good.

=Paul told the Philippians that he understood that they were being _____... that they felt like they were being _____.

=When Paul wrote his friends in Philippi, he knew that they were under a lot of _____. He knew that their _____ and _____ were real.

=Good advice in I Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He _____ for you.”

=When we think that we are all alone in our _____, when we feel that we have to take care of it all by ourselves, we don't understand God's _____ and _____.

=Paul says that when we tell God _____ it includes petition (asking God for things), and _____ for what God has done, is doing, and will do.

=God's _____ guards your heart, that is the _____ part of you, and guards your _____, that is the _____ part of you.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer, and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.