

## Philippians 4:1-13

### I. Introduction

- A. The first thirteen verses of Philippians 4 provide great *comfort* to the faithful Christian, and also provide much *instruction*. Consider some things taught in this passage. **Philippians 4:1-13**

### II. “Stand Firm in the Lord”

- A. The chapter begins with an appeal for steadfastness. This is a follow up to the end of chapter 3, and also introduces a theme of chapter 4. **Philippians 4:1 (3:20-21); 1 Corinthians 15:58**

### III. Seek Unity

- A. The Holy Spirit through Paul next stresses the need for unity among the brethren at Philippi. **Philippians 4:2-3 (2:2)**
- B. Pursuing unity requires a proper attitude toward *brethren* and a proper attitude toward *truth*. **Ephesians 4:1-6**

### IV. “Rejoice in the Lord Always”

- A. The apostle Paul moves from the subject of unity to another key theme of the epistle: joy. He commands us to “rejoice *always*,” which is possible “in the Lord.” **Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18; Ephesians 1:3**

### V. Show Gentleness

- A. The inspired apostle next commands letting our “moderation” (KJV), “forbearance” (ASV), “gentleness” (WEB; NKJV), or “reasonableness” (ESV) be known to all. Obeying this is helped by remembering that “the Lord is at hand.” **Philippians 4:5**

### VI. “In Nothing Be Anxious”

- A. Verse 6 commands us to avoid being overcome by anxieties of life, and to instead cast our cares on God. **Philippians 4:6**
- B. One who does this is promised an inner peace that is beyond our full comprehension. **Philippians 4:7**

### VII. “Think on These Things”

- A. The apostle Paul continues offering both comfort and instruction with the command given in verse 8. It is both a *privilege* and a *duty* to meditate on what God defines as true, honorable, just, etc. **Philippians 4:8**
- B. Thinking on “these things” is a strong help in our fight against Satan and the sin he promotes. **Mark 7:21-23**

### VIII. Practice These Things

- A. The things promoted by God through His inspired apostles must be learned and meditated on, but they must also be put into *practice*. **Philippians 4:9; James 1:22**

### IX. Rejoice for Good Fruit

- A. Verse 10 returns to the theme of joy. Paul shows an example of rejoicing “in the Lord,” expressing joy for good fruit borne by others. **Philippians 4:10 (4:17)**

### X. Learn Contentment

- A. After thanking the Philippians for the gift sent to him, the apostle Paul makes it clear that it is not *material* things that are the source of his joy and contentment. In fact, Paul says he *learned* to be content in *any* (temporal) state. **Philippians 4:11-12; 2 Corinthians 11:23-27**

### XI. Paul’s “Secret”

- A. The “secret” to this strength, joy, and contentment is Jesus. By following Christ, the apostle Paul had far greater riches than the most (materially) rich person alive. Paul shows us what makes someone truly rich. **Philippians 4:13; Revelation 2:9 (3:17); Philippians 1:21**

### XII. Conclusion

- A. May we each appreciate the blessings and pursue the lifestyle described in these verses.