

## **Extraordinary Joy**

### **Philippians 4**

*1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.*

Paul weeps over enemies 3:18 rejoices over saints. Therefore points back to our citizenship in heaven & new bodies and at same time longs to see church body *Brethren adelphos* – from same womb – womb-mates.

*Beloved agapetos* – dear ones (love of God). *Converts* his *stephanos*, living crowns, living gold medals – *joy* in them not self. So exhortation to *stand firm* military term in heat of battle—Racing metaphor 3:13,14 –too many have dropped out of the race, surrendered in heat of battle-don't you

*2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.*

2 *Euodias* – *sweet fragrance*; *Syntyche* – *friendly* – need to live up to namesake or rename *Odious* & *Soon touchy* – leading ladies in church yet couldn't get along. *Jn 17:11 Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, the name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are.* Christian-Christ like - *House divided against itself will not stand.* A fact of God.

*Harmony*--of same mind, care for each other – change of heart brings change actions for Christ & church sake-*Damage control*

*3 Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

*Comrade*--*companion* – picture of oxen yoked pulling load (he elder or pastor). *Women* converts at riverside w/ Lydia a leader among women - a church plant **Acts 16:13**. *Clement* common name who worked w/ Paul & ladies. *Book of Life* – Rev 21 *Lambs book of life*-register of names of saved

*4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

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*Rejoice* (prison) supernatural joy independent of circumstances—**In Lord** — Jesus said *I have overcome the world* Satan a defeated foe—**Because I live you shall live also**— Double *rejoice*. **Can't lose joy because can't lose Jesus.**

**5 Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.**

*Forbearing spirit* — Gentle or mild—**relaxing an overly strict attitude in favor of spirit of the law**—control of feelings, having a generous attitude toward others—mercy in dealing w/ faults of others—gracious when one fails—don't retaliate when mistreated—**Lord is near** He will deal w/ your situation now or soon—so bear up under as Lord bears it w/ you.

**6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

*Anxious* is lack of confidence that God is in control — solution *prayer*—talk to God, *supplication*—tell Him your need, *thanksgiving*—thank Him while you wait. And supernatural *peace* of God not your own—promise to guard (military garrison) around *heart* and *mind* in *Christ Jesus*—not out of

**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, let your mind  dwell on these things.**

**As a man thinks in his heart so is he...Pr 27:3 GIGO (garbage in garbage out)**—computer science says **'the quality of outputs is determined by the quality of the input'** But we are to **Be ye changed by the renewing of your mind**  
**Rm12:2** Eight *whatevers* to dwell on—sow—thought—action—habit—character—destiny

**9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.**

Paul's example—*learned*, *received*, *heard*, *seen*, he puts himself out there, nothing to hide—can we say this? Example is critical—**more caught than taught**—**crops don't grow where the shadow....Teaching servant hood is good but seeing you serve is much greater**

## Extraordinary Joy Philippians 4

*10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

*Revive*-picture of plant or grass wither, ready to die & water brings back to life, *revived*. 10 yrs since first gift given 15,16 yet Paul knew their heart.

They wanted to but no opportunity. *Content*-self sufficient independent from relying on outside help—Lord was his supplier *Humble means*, classical Grk for river running low. *Being filled*-feed & fatten animals—*Do all things*-having Christ strength imparted to me.

*14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. 15 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.*

Paul doesn't want to give the impression he is ungrateful for recent gift-*Share*--to join in partnership. In Paul's mind giving to him was of secondary importance to the profit-fruit increasing to their account before Lord – '*cup of cold water in name of prophet receive prophets reward*'.

*18 But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

18 Allusion to temple incense wafts throughout city as ascends to God is what your giving is like. *Caesar's household* witness to guards, servants & family members