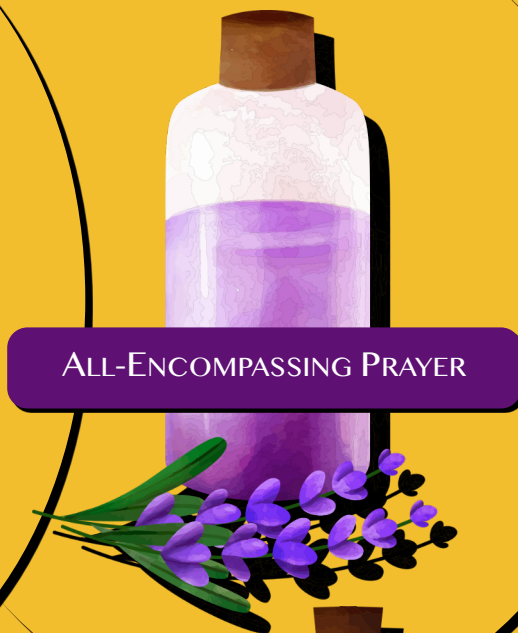


FOUR ESSENTIAL OILS

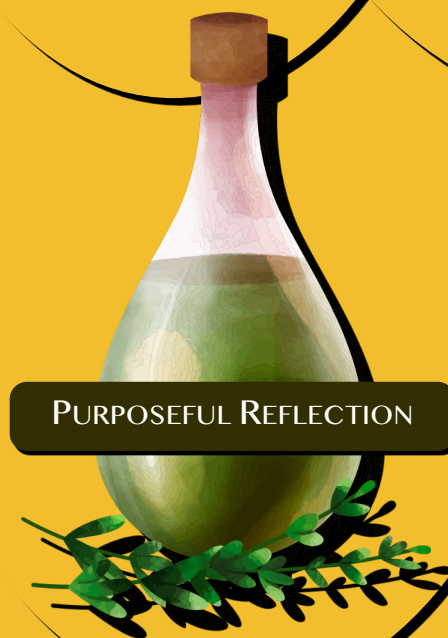
- APPLY OFTEN AND IN LARGE QUANTITIES FOR A HEALTHY HEART AND MIND THAT WE MAY STAND FIRM IN THE LORD



REVERENT JOY



ALL-ENCOMPASSING PRAYER



PURPOSEFUL REFLECTION



FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

STAND FIRM IN THE LORD IN THIS WAY, PART 2



THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF REVERENT JOY

1. We stand firm in the Lord by rejoicing in the Lord always, 4:4-5.

- (Philippians 4:4-5 LSB) **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!** Let your considerate spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

A. The first step to rejoicing is to accept and obey the plain statement of the command.

B. The command is to rejoice in the Lord always.

But joy is not a feeling; it is the deep-down confidence that God is in control of everything for the believer's good and His own glory, and thus all is well no matter what the circumstances. ... **The phrase in the Lord introduces an important principle: Spiritual stability is directly related to how a person thinks about God.** [MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2001). *Philippians* (pp. 273-274). Moody Press.]

C. Rejoicing in the Lord produces rejoicing in the Lord.

D. Rejoicing in the Lord teaches us by growing our belief as to the character of God.

E. This, in turn, cultivates a deep, joyful trust that Yahweh is able and willing to do what he has promised to do.

F. This deep abiding, confidence in Yahweh soothes our minds and sweeps away the bitter, impatient spirit that threatens to well up within us by the unfairness and hurtful nature of life.

G. Our bitter spirit turned sweet is seen in our equitable, gentle, considerate spirit toward all people.

H. Rejoicing in the Lord we live in the reality that our God reigns and is near to us.

EXCURSUS: TO EFFECTIVELY REJOICE "IN THE LORD" WE NEED TO KNOW THE LORD, SO HERE IS A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO AND SUMMARY OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.

A. W. Tozer ... **What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.**

Tozer ... The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that **no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.** Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.

For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous **[momentous, ominously significant]** fact about any man

is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God ...

Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, "What comes into your mind when you think about God?" we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. (*Reprint; New York: Harper & Row, 1975, 9). MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2001). Philippians* (p. 274). Moody Press.]

15 Attributes of God: What They Mean and Why They Matter ... from Bible Study Tools dot com.

1. God Is Infinite – He is Self-Existing, Without Origin
2. God Is Immutable – He Never Changes
3. God Is Self-Sufficient – He Has No Needs
4. God is Omnipotent – He Is All Powerful
5. God Is Omniscient – He Is All-Knowing
6. God Is Omnipresent – He Is Always Everywhere
7. God Is Wise – He Is Full of Perfect, Unchanging Wisdom
8. God Is Faithful – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly True
9. God Is Good – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly Kind and Full of Good Will
10. God Is Just – He Is Infinitely, Unchangeably Right and Perfect in All He Does
11. God Is Merciful – He is Infinitely, Unchangeably Compassionate and Kind
12. God Is Gracious – God Is Infinitely Inclined to Spare the Guilty
13. God Is Loving – God Infinitely, Unchangingly Loves Us
14. God Is Holy – He is Infinitely, Unchangingly Perfect
15. God Is Glorious – He is Infinitely Beautiful and Great

TO TRULY KNOW THE LORD IS TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

- (Jeremiah 10:6 LSB) **There is none like You,** O Yahweh; You are great, and great is Your name in might.
- (John 17:3 LSB) **And this is eternal life, that they may know You,** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

—END EXCURSUS—



THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF ALL-ENCOMPASSING PRAYER

2. We stand firm in the Lord by bringing our anxieties before the Lord in prayer, 4:6-7.

- (Philippians 4:6-7 LSB) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- As with rejoicing the first step is to accept and obey the plain statement of the command.
- The command is to not worry about anything.
- We are to replace worry with obedience and trust and take everything that would give rise to anxiety before God by means of prayers and petitions and with thanksgiving.
- The result of obeying this command is that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- The peace of God does what is impossible for us to do on our own—i.e. guard our hearts and minds.
- The peace of God guarding our hearts and minds is one of the many powerful spiritual blessings we have in Christ.
 - (Ephesians 1:3 LSB) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.
- Only God's peace can give us lasting, genuine victory over our fears and anxieties.



THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF PURPOSEFUL REFLECTION

3. We stand firm in the Lord by thinking on, pondering, reflecting on the reality of the praiseworthy things in our lives, 4:8.

- (Philippians 4:8 LSB) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider [*"dwell on"*—NASB95] these things.
- We are to discipline our minds to consider the praiseworthy works of Yahweh.

Consider ... means to take into account, to make an account of; to reckon; to deliberate; to dwell on, to think; to ponder, reflect on, or reason about.

This word deals with reality, so when we obey the instruction of Scripture and **consider these things**, the Holy Spirit transforms our minds and brings us into the reality of the world in which we live—God's world. Fallen yes. But nonetheless a world over which our God reigns.

B. The reality is that the earth is full of the praiseworthy works of Yahweh.

- (Psalm 33:2a, 5 LSB) Give thanks to Yahweh ... He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of Yahweh.
- (Isaiah 6:3 LSB) And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory."
- (Habakkuk 3:3 LSB) God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise.



THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

4. We stand firm in the Lord by practicing what Paul preaches, 4:9.

- (Philippians 4:9 LSB) The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- Once again we have the way of blessing clearly, plainly set before us.
 - Do the things we have been taught.
 - (James 1:22 LSB) But become doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
 - Note the result: The God of peace will be with us.

CONCLUSION: ARE YOU STANDING FIRM? ARE YOU REJOICING IN THE LORD? WHOSE WAY ARE YOU ON? THE LORD'S WAY? OR YOUR OWN WAY?

HELPFUL FACTS TO CONSIDER ...

FACT #1: The person who walks in the way of the Lord lives joyfully, stands firm and will not be shaken.

a. **Standing firm we live the firm life—the I shall not be shaken life—of the faithful follower of the Lord.**

- (Psalm 16:8–9 LSB) I have set Yahweh continually before me; **Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.** 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; **My flesh also will dwell securely.**
- (Psalm 62:6–8 LSB) **Surely He is** my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; **I shall not be shaken.** 7 On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. 8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; **Pour out your heart before Him;** God is a refuge for us. Selah.
- (Psalm 125:1–2 LSB) **Those who trust in Yahweh** Are as Mount Zion, **which will not be shaken but will abide forever.** 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, **So Yahweh surrounds His people From now until forever.**

b. **We live the standing firm life and find joy on the path of life as we obey God and submit to his ways.**

- (Psalm 25:4 LSB) **Make me know Your ways, O Yahweh; Teach me Your paths.**
- (Psalm 16:11 LSB) **You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.**

c. **We live the standing firm life when we fully believe in the goodness and blessing of the paths of Yahweh.**

- (Psalm 25:10 LSB) **All the paths of Yahweh are lovingkindness and truth** to those who guard His covenant and His testimonies.

d. **We live the standing firm life when we know the way of Yahweh is the good way.**

- (Jeremiah 6:16 LSB) Thus says Yahweh, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, **Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls.** But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

FACT #2: The person—believer or unbeliever—who refuses to walk in the good way of God grumbles and disputes, is not standing firm in the Lord, is neither blameless nor innocent and his or her light is blemished and diminished.

- (Philippians 2:14–15 LSB) **Do all things without grumbling or disputing,** 15 **so that you will be blameless and innocent,** children of God without blemish in the midst of a

crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

FACT #3: The grumbler walks in his or her own way and reveals an unbelieving heart which will never know or experience true peace and stability.

a. **There is no true peace for those who do not have peace with God through Christ.**

- (Romans 5:1 LSB) Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- (Isaiah 57:21 LSB) “**There is no peace,**” says my God, “for the wicked.”

b. **The unsaved—the wicked—have no firm, lasting foundation and will be blown away like chaff in the judgment of Yahweh.**

- (Psalm 1:4–5 LSB) The wicked are not so, **But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.** 5 Therefore the wicked will not rise in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

c. **The unsaved—the wicked—live on a slippery path that takes them further away from peace and drives them deeper into the darkness.**

- (Jeremiah 23:12 LSB) “**Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them; They will be driven away into the thick darkness and fall down in it; For I will bring their evil upon them,** The year of their punishment,” declares Yahweh.

d. **In the thick darkness Yahweh cascades their own evil down upon them.**

e. **Those who trust in what seems right as opposed to what God reveals in Scripture end in death—forever separated from God in judgment.**

- (Proverbs 14:12 LSB) There is a way which seems right to a man, **But its end is the way of death.**

When we immerse our lives in reverent joy, all-encompassing prayer, purposeful reflection and faithful obedience, we will stand firm in the Lord. We will not be shaken no matter the circumstances of our lives. We will be joyful and courageous.

WE [WILL] STAND FEARLESS AT THE CLIFF-EDGE OF DOOM.

(PSALM 46:2A MSG)