

EXPERIENCING THE PEACE OF GOD



OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS THE PATHWAY TO
EXPERIENCING THE PEACE OF GOD

1. The person who experiences the peace of God is faithful and growing in his obedience to the will of God as taught in the word of God, 2:12-13.

- (Philippians 2:12–13 ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A. The person who experiences the peace of God has an established, consistent pattern of obedience to God.

Always ... πάντοτε [pantote] – at all times, always; all the time and on every occasion.

Obedied ... ὑπακούω [hupakouo] – to obey, to be obedient to, to submit to; to listen attentively or give respectful attention to something.

B. Our consistent obedience to the will of God by the word of God is the process by which we jointly "work out" our salvation with God and through which he accomplishes his sanctifying work in our lives.

Work out ... κατεργάζομαι [katergazomai] – to accomplish, perform, achieve; to work out i.e. to do that from which something results.

C. We should consider "working out" our salvation with God in this way as a blessing of his grace and with deep reverence for God as he carries out his powerful, sanctifying work in our lives.

D. The phrase "fear and trembling" describes a profound posture of reverent awe, deep humility, and serious responsibility before God's holiness.

E. God's work in our lives to do his will and work for his good pleasure is holy work—"that we would be holy and blameless before him one day."

Works – ἐνεργέω [energeo] – to be operative, put forth power; to cause to function; to carry into effect.

Will ... θέλω [thelo] – to have in mind, intend; to be resolved or determined, to purpose.

Good pleasure ... εὐδοκία [eudokia] – good will, kindly intent; a delightful, fixed intention of kind, generous, and well-meaning favor.

We find the same word in Ephesians 1:5 and 1:9.

- (Ephesians 1:5 NASB95) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.

- (Ephesians 1:9 NASB95) He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him.

F. Ephesians 1:3-6 reveals an amazing portrait of the eternal work that God has planned for our lives ... and the passion and emotion by which he carries out this eternal work.

- (Ephesians 1:3–6 NASB95) 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, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

2. The person who experiences the peace of God brings his heart and mind under the protective care of the peace of God in Christ through joyful, faithful obedience to the word of God, 4:4-7.

- (Philippians 4:4–7 ESV) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A. Be diligent to find and maintain our joy in the Lord.

We are commanded to do this—rejoice in the Lord. The command is repeated for emphasis and urgency. Our ultimate joy must be in no one or nothing else.

B. The fruit of finding and maintaining our joy in the Lord is a merciful, reasonable attitude toward others.

Reasonableness ... ἐπιεικής [epieikes] – lenience; mercifulness or tolerance; fair, mild, gentle.

We become merciful and reasonable in our attitude to others because we know the mercy shown to us in having the righteousness of Christ put to our account.

C. Live in view of the nearness of God and trust him with everything.

- i. It is crucial that we live with a constant awareness that the Lord is at hand, 4:5b-6.
- ii. It is crucial that we early and often align our attitude to that powerful truth—the Lord is near—and not to be anxious about anything.

Be anxious ... μεριμνάω [merimnao] – to be troubled with cares; to be concerned with.

Everything ... πᾶς [pas] – entire, constituting the full quantity or extent; complete; each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything.

D. The specific instructions ... In everything by petitions and earnest requests with thanksgiving ... Let your requests (a formal message submitted to an authority which asks for something) be made known to God.

3. The person who experiences the peace of God welcomes and invites the God of peace into his life when thinks how God wants him to think and does what God wants him to do, 4:8-9.

- (Philippians 4:8–9 ESV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things**. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—**practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

A. THINK: We are to make a conscious decision to think on these particular things to which God directs our attention.

Think ... λογίζομαι [logizomai] – to ponder; reflect on, or reason about; to reckon, count, compute, calculate; to take into account; to deliberate; to determine, purpose, decide.

B. In general we are to be prepared, diligent, focused and disciplined in our thinking.

- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, **preparing your minds for action**, and **being sober-minded**, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Preparing your minds ... ἀναζώννυμι [anazonnumi] – to gird up; metaphorically to be prepared; to prepare to think hard; to put oneself into a ready state for strenuous thinking.

C. We are to think like God thinks because that is what is true and what matters now and forever.

D. We are to think things that are consistent with who God is and with his eternal purpose and plan.

- (Proverbs 19:21 ESV) Many are the plans in the mind of a man, **but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand**.
- (Isaiah 46:8–11 ESV) **Remember this and stand firm**, recall it to mind, you transgressors, 9 remember the former things of old; for **I am God**, and there is no other; **I am God**, and there is none like me, 10 **declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done**, saying, **'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'**, 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. **I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it**.
- (Psalm 33:10–11 ESV) The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 **The counsel of the LORD stands forever**, the plans of his heart to all generations.

E. We are to think on these specific things that are consistent with the holiness of God and his sovereign rule over this earth.

whatever is **true**,

whatever is **honorable**,

whatever is **just**,

whatever is **pure**,

whatever is **lovely**,

whatever is **commendable**,

if there is any **excellence**,

if there is anything **worthy of praise**.

Think on these things.

F. We are to think on what is true beginning with the word of God.

- (Psalm 19:9 ESV) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; **the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether**.
- (Psalm 119:151 ESV) But you are near, O LORD, **and all your commandments are true**.
- (Psalm 119:160 ESV) **The sum of your word is truth**, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

G. DO: We are to make a conscious decision to practice the things we have learned and received and heard and seen in the Apostle Paul.

CONCLUSION: So how could we summarize ... or simplify ...
how we experience the peace of God?

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Think like God tells us to think ... live like God
tells us to live ...

Walk with God ... come to know him ...
fellowship with him on the path of obedience ... be
led in the way everlasting ...

- (Psalm 139:23-24 ESV) **Search me**, O God,
and **know my heart!** **Try me** and **know my thoughts!**
24 And see if there be any grievous way in
me, **and lead me in the way everlasting!**