

Peace Through Prayer

Philippians 4:6-9

Prayer is God's answer for anxiety. 4:6

◆ *Anxious* can also be translated as *concerned* and thus sometimes be positive (2:20, II Cor. 11:28); but it is typically used in a negative way.

Anxiety = irresponsible, Lk. 8:14, 10:41, 21:34
= impractical, Matt. 6:27, Lk. 12:25,26
= irreverent, Matt., 6:30,32, Peter 5:7

◆ God's better alternative to worry is *prayer, supplication, thanksgiving,* and *requests*, cf. I Pt. 5:7, Ps. 55:22. *Make known* is repeated in v.5 and v.6 (5 reveals us in control while 6 reveals God in control).

Peace is God's assurance to those who pray. 4:7

- ◆ Here ≠ a promise to fix a specific problem but = promise to fix . . .
- ◆ Recall *rejoice* (4) is a command while *peace* requires prayer.
- ◆ God grants real peace, II Thess. 3:16, Jn. 14:27,16:33, Gal. 5:22.

Pondering godly things is God's desire for our thought life. 4:8

- ◆ Here's a checklist for our thought-life. See Col. 3:1-3, Rom. 12:1,2.
- ◆ Thinking right helps fulfill v.7, plus recall *attitude* concerns, 2:2,5, 3:15.

Paul's example, if followed, offers assurance God will be near. 4:9

- ◆ Another appeal to imitate (3:17)—what they learned, received, saw.
- ◆ Fully experiencing God's peace is for those following Paul's pattern.

