

Grace and Peace **November 24, 2024**

Expect persecution and suffering: 2 Timothy 3:12, *“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*

Suffering is an opportunity to glorify God: 1 Peter 4:15-16, *“Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, thief, evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is to glorify God.”*

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, *“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.”*

1. God’s People: Philippians 1:2-4, *“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all.”*

Philippians 4:1, *“My beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.”*

God wants us to:

- **View each other with joy and thankfulness as we pray for one another**
- **Stand firm in the Lord**

Philippians 4:2-5, *“I urge Euodia and Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. ³ Indeed, true companion, I ask you to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.”*

- **Live in harmony and unity**
- **Help each other**
- **Be fellow workers in the cause of the gospel**
- **Have our names written in the book of life**
- **Always rejoice in the Lord**
- **Develop a gentle spirit**
- **Be ready for Christ’s return because the Lord is near**

2. God’s Peace & Presence: Philippians 4:6-9, *“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, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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, dwell on these things. ⁹ 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.”*

God wants us to:

- **Lower anxiety by praying about everything with a thankful heart**
- **Enjoy the peace of God that guard's hearts and minds**
- **Dwell on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, excellent and worthy of praise**
- **Experience the very God of peace Himself and to be present with you**

3. God's Power: Philippians 4:10-13, *"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."*

God wants us to:

- **Revive concern for one another. Look for opportunities.**
- **Be content. Gain strength and empowerment from Jesus Christ**

Acts 16:19,22-25, *"They seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities. ²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. ²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening."*

4. God's Provision: Philippians 4:14-23, *"Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. ¹⁵ You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left 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. 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 will 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."*

God wants us to:

- **Do well in sharing each other's afflictions as we give *and* receive**
- **Offer an acceptable sacrifice, that is well-pleasing to Him**
- **Supply all our needs according to His riches in glory, in Christ Jesus**
- **Greet every saint, every Christian**
- **Experience the grace of His Son, Jesus Christ, in our spirit**