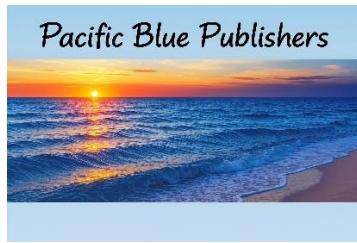


THE JOURNEY MADE NEW

Overcoming Limits by the
Power of His Spirit

RUSSELL D. WARD



CHAPTER FOUR

Discovering God's Word

The greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible.
R.C. Sproul

Inductive Bible Study

New Testament

Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours] (Philippians 4:6-7 AMP).

Part 1 – Focus on the Facts (What does the passage reveal?)

Do not be anxious or worried about anything... A strong command – Paul begins – anxiety has no rightful place in the believer's life, which includes every circumstance and situation, leaving nothing outside God's care.

...but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving...
A prescribed response – Prayer turns anxious thoughts into God-centered trust.

Prayer – Involves open conversation and connection with God.

Petition (or supplication) – Expressing specific needs and desires to God.

Thanksgiving – Combines gratitude for past blessings with trust in God's continued work.

...continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. A regular discipline – Persistence calls for continual prayer. It's a steady pattern of surrendering anxieties and maintaining connection with God.

And the peace of God... stands guard your hearts and minds...
This peace surpasses what we can know and comes from Him alone.

Guard (Greek – to protect) the believer's heart and mind – portraying God's peace as a fortified sanctuary that defends and stabilizes the inner life.

A Divine outcome – Persistent prayer doesn't guarantee a change in situation, but it does bring a change within – anxiety is replaced by God's peace.

...in Christ Jesus. The condition of this peace – It is not the product of human effort, but the fruit of a personal relationship with Him. His presence is the source of life-giving peace. This peace transcends emotional control; it is Divine protection flowing from our union with Christ.

Who is speaking? Paul, sending a message of guidance and reassurance to the Philippian church.

Who is being addressed? The Philippian church – through them, all who trust in Christ.

Tone/Emotion – Hopeful, steady, and filled with instruction.

Part 2 – Meaning (What is being said and why?)

Paul encourages those devoted to Christ to bring every concern before God with thanksgiving, trusting Him to provide peace and direction.

God's peace is a supernatural gift that comes when we surrender control and trust Him.

The context of Philippi – a place of Roman power and opposition – made Paul's message of prayer over anxiety both timely and necessary.

The unfolding continues in Chapter 4 of *The Journey Made New* by Russell D. Ward