



74. Attitude, Action, Anticipation

Listen to Paul's words from prison:
"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,"
Philippians 4:4-7.

In Paul's letter to the believers in Philippi, these verses are a paragraph about prayer. Paul taught three parts of prayer ... attitude, action, and anticipation. The right *attitude* is continuous joy in the Lord, gentleness toward others, and contentment rather than anxiety. The right *action* is to pray about everything, being thankful even before God answers, and making our requests to God. When our prayer *attitude* and *action* are right, we can *anticipate* His incomprehensible peace to guard our minds and hearts.

How's your attitude? The right attitude in prayer is independent of God's answers to past and present requests. Your joy,

gentleness, contentedness, and gratitude must be independent of circumstances ... and must proceed from a deep trust in the Lord. He is not distant, far off, and unaware of your needs. The Lord is near. Trust Him. And how are you doing at praying about everything? Make a list of everything that you have prayed about in the past few days. Is everything in your life on that list? If your prayer attitude and action are right, then you can anticipate that His incomprehensible peace will guard your heart and mind. Do you have that peace? If not, you might need to work on your prayer attitude and action.

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