

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

PHILIPPIANS

STUDY #7: Paul's Mindset

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS ~ BIBLE STUDY METHODS ~

LOOK FOR VERBS

The Bible is a book about *action*--things we should and should not do. Verbs are the words of action and by identifying them in the passages we are studying, we can see the specific *actions* the writer wishes to bring to our attention. Sometimes the verbs reflect commands, sometimes simply suggestions. In either case, we must consider those *actions* in light of the authority of Scripture.

INTRODUCTION

What sorts of things make you anxious?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Philippians 4:1-9

Note: "Peace with God" is the result of faith in Christ (Rom. 5:1); "the peace of God" and the presence of "the God of peace" will come when the believer practices right thinking, right praying, and right living. Worry is tension between the mind and heart. The peace of God will guard (garrison) our hearts and minds if we but meet the conditions He gives¹

1. Why does Paul begin this section with "therefore?"
2. What verbs does Paul use in vv. 2 and 3?
3. What attitude is behind the verbs Paul uses in vv.2 and 3?
4. How does Paul's use of verbs change in vv. 4 and 5? Why?
5. Would you consider the word "rejoice" an action verb? How can you do it (always)?
6. Why don't we wait for better circumstances to rejoice?
7. What do you understand the word "everything" to mean in v. 6? What qualifiers do we put on our understanding of "everything?" For example, everything except....
8. What does Paul tell us to do [*what verb*] in order not to be anxious? [v. 6] "...*present*..."
9. How does worry reflect a lack of confidence in God's care and control? Matt 6:25-34
10. What action verbs does Paul use to tell us to "present our requests?" If we follow this "formula," what will we receive?
11. How would you describe the "peace of God" to a non-believer?
12. According to v. 7, where is the battle of anxiety fought? Why there?
13. What action verb relates to our hearts and minds (verse 7)?
14. How is v. 8 related to the rest of this passage? What relationship do you see between this verse and 2 Corinthians 10:5; Romans 7:23; Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:13; and, Ephesians 4: 22-24?

APPLICATION

What challenges are you facing that might cause anxiety? How have you applied the Phil 4:6-7 "formula" to these challenges? If the anxiety remains, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the areas of doubt in your heart. How will you employ the strategy for Phil 4:8 this week?

For next week read the book of Philippians (10-15 minutes) again. We will focus on Paul's confidence as shown in Philippians 4:10-23.

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 570). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.