

STAND FIRM IN THE LORD **IN THIS WAY**

ESSENTIAL OILS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

REJOICING & PRAYER

APPLY OFTEN AND IN LARGE QUANTITIES
CALMS THE HEART AND SETTLES THE MIND
BUILDS SPIRITUAL FIRMNES IN THE LORD
BRINGS PEACE TO THE INDIVIDUAL



GOOD FOR THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE ENTIRE BODY

AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL COMPREHENSION,
WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.

(PHILIPPIANS 4:7 LSB)

THE GOD OF PEACE THE PEACE OF GOD



1



PEACE WITH CREATION



PEACE WITH SELF



PEACE WITH OTHERS

4

2

3

WE ARE EAGERLY WAITING FOR JESUS TO RETURN

- (Philippians 3:20–21 LSB) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by His working through which He is able to even subject all things to Himself.

WHILE WE EAGERLY WAIT WE STAND FIRM IN THIS WAY

- (Philippians 4:1 LSB) Therefore my brothers, loved and longed for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

1. We stand firm in the Lord by working out our differences before the Lord, 4:1-2.

AN OUTSIDE PROBLEM IS AN INSIDE PROBLEM. Relationship problems are peace problems. Here are some biblical guidelines to help us discipline our minds and hearts to think and act in the Lord and find his peace as we work out our differences in the body of Christ.

A. When we submit our minds—how we think—to the Lord, he keeps us in perfect peace, 4:2.

- (Philippians 4:2 LSB) I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord.
- (Isaiah 26:3 ESV) You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

B. When we submit ourselves to God, God removes the devil's influence in our relationships.

- (James 4:7 ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

C. When we submit our anger to God, God removes the accusations and confusion the devil brings to relationships.

- (Ephesians 4:26–27 LSB) BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

D. When we submit our minds to the Spirit, we find life and peace.

- (Romans 8:6 LSB) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

E. When we submit our minds to the Spirit, we overcome the hostility of the flesh and are able to submit our

minds to the word of God.

- (Romans 8:7 LSB) Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.

F. When we submit our minds to Scripture, God teaches and trains us in his ways.

- (2 Timothy 3:16 LSB) All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

G. When we are conscious of and obedient to having the mind of Christ, we become thorough examiners with the intent of establishing the facts.

- (1 Corinthians 2:15–16 LSB) But he who is spiritual examines all things, yet he himself is examined by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL DIRECT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

H. When we examine ourselves and see to it that we are acting in a spiritually mature manner, then we will not behave as spiritual infants—mere humans.

- (1 Corinthians 3:1–4 LSB) And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshly men, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are still not able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? 4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men?

I. When we stop warring as humans and take our thoughts captive in obedience to Christ, we will escape the trap of trusting in our prideful thoughts and opinions.

- (2 Corinthians 10:3–6 LSB) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the tearing down of strongholds, 5 as we tear down speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 and are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is fulfilled.

EXCURSUS: PEACE WITH GOD IS THE BEGINNING AND ENDING POINT. PEACE IS NO WHERE ELSE.

I. There is no true peace for those who do not have peace with God through Christ.

- (Isaiah 57:21 LSB) “**There is no peace,**” says my God, “for the wicked.”

II. The first step to true peace is peace with God positionally.

- (Romans 5:1–2 LSB) Therefore, **having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,** 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into **this grace in which we stand;** and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

III. Euodia and Syntyche had peace with God and were standing in grace.

IV. We know that because they were fellow laborers in the gospel and their names are in the book of life.

- (Philippians 4:3 LSB) Indeed, I ask you also, genuine companion, help **these women who have contended together alongside of me in the gospel,** with also Clement and the rest of **my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.**

V. But sometimes a person has peace with God positionally but is not experiencing God’s peace in his heart and mind.

Euodia and Syntyche had peace with God but were not living in that peace and so they were contending with each other.

We do not know the particulars of their contention but we do know the remedy ... the Apostle Paul commanded them to **rejoice** in the Lord, **pray** to the Lord and **praise** the Lord.

—END EXCURSUS—

2. We stand firm in the Lord by helping our brothers and sisters work through their differences, 4:3.

A. It is our duty as our fellow workers in the gospel to help those who are struggling to work through their differences before the Lord, 4:3.

- (Philippians 4:3 LSB) Indeed, I ask you also, genuine companion, **help these women who have contended together alongside of me in the gospel,** with also Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

B. We can help our fellow workers in the gospel by drawing their attention to the doable reality and the blessing of living in the peace of God.

- (2 Corinthians 13:11 LSB) Finally, brothers, rejoice, be restored, be comforted, be like-minded, **live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.**
- (Hebrews 13:20–21 LSB) **Now the God of peace,** who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, 21 **equip you in every good thing to do His will, by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight,** through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- (John 14:27 LSB) **Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;** not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

C. We can help our fellows workers in the gospel by gently restoring the one who has sinned.

- (Galatians 6:1–2 LSB) Brothers, even if anyone is caught in any transgression, **you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,** each of you looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- (Romans 15:1 LSB) **Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength** and not just please ourselves.



APPLYING THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF REJOICING

3. We stand firm in the Lord by rejoicing in the Lord always, 4:4-5.

- (Philippians 4:4–5 LSB) **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!** 5 Let your considerate spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

A. The first step to rejoicing is to accept and obey the plain statement of the command.

B. We are to always rejoice.

C. Rejoicing in the Lord soothes and sweetens the bitter, impatient spirit that can well up within us by the unfairness and hurtful nature of life.

D. Rejoicing in the Lord produces a merciful tolerance for the people around us which presents itself in a gentle, considerate spirit.

E. Rejoicing in the Lord draws us into the reality of the nearness of the Lord.



APPLYING THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF PRAYER

4. We stand firm in the Lord by bringing our anxieties before the Lord in prayer, 4:6-7.

- (Philippians 4:6-7 LSB) **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything** by prayer and petition 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.**

- A. As with rejoicing the first step is to accept and obey the plain statement of the command.
- B. We are not to worry about anything.
- C. But everything that would give rise to anxiety we are to take to God by means of prayers and petitions and with thanksgiving.
- D. The result of accepting and obeying God's instruction is that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- E. The peace of God does what is impossible for us to do on our own—guard our hearts and minds.
- F. The peace of God that guards our hearts and minds is one of the many spiritual blessings we have in Christ.
- G. Only God's peace will give us that victory, so we must set our minds on the Spirit for life and peace.



APPLYING THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF PRAISE

5. We stand firm in the Lord by thinking on, pondering, reflecting on the reality of the praiseworthy things in our lives, 4:8.

- (Philippians 4:8 LSB) Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **dignified**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything **worthy of praise**, **consider** [*“dwell on”*—NASB95] **these things.**
- A. We are to discipline our minds to consider the praiseworthy works of Yahweh.

Consider ... λογίζομαι [logizomai] ... to take into

account, to make an account of; to reckon; to deliberate; to dwell on, to think; to ponder; reflect on, or reason about

This word deals with reality, so when we **consider these things**, we bring our attention to their reality.

B. The reality is that the earth is full of the praiseworthy works of Yahweh.

- (Psalm 33:2a, 5 LSB) Give thanks to Yahweh ... He loves righteousness and justice; **The earth is full of the lovingkindness of Yahweh.**
- (Isaiah 6:3 LSB) And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; **The whole earth is full of His glory.**”
- (Habakkuk 3:3 LSB) God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, **And the earth is full of His praise.**



APPLYING THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF PRACTICE

6. We stand firm in the Lord by practicing what Paul preaches, 4:9.

- (Philippians 4:9 LSB) 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.**
- A. Once again we have the way of blessing clearly, plainly set before us.
- B. Do the the things we have been taught.
- (James 1:22 LSB) **But become doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- C. The reward: The God of peace will be with us.

