

Be Happy in Jesus Always

I repeat for emphasis, be happy!!
May the gentle spirit
God has given you
become increasingly obvious to all.

Don't let anything make you anxious, worried, or uptight.

Instead of letting
even your earnest prayers
become a source of anxiety,
let them be filled
with thanksgiving to God
for Himself
and His complete enablement



Remember, He's always with you, enabling you even
for the impossible.
As you worship Him in prayer,
resigning yourself to Him,
relinquishing everything to Him,
and resting in Him
. . . as in prayer and always

He Himself
increasingly replaces your troubles
as the focus of your attention

. . . as He becomes your all in all, then, God's amazing peace will increasingly fill your heart and mind
and overflow to all around.

- A loose paraphrase of Philippians 4:4--7 by Pastor Marr

For many years, I just didn't get it!

The King James Version of the scripture on the other side of this card confused me.
I loved the promise that I could have God's peace. And that this peace could be mine even when
circumstances seemed to make peace impossible.

But my getting this peace seemed to be made contingent on my prayers of petition. And that I just didn't
get. I really didn't!!

You see, my experience said the opposite. I had found that very often, when I prayed, asking God to
give me the things that were really important to me, I ended up, not at peace or rest in the Lord, but
quite the opposite, all worried and exhausted.

. . . My problem was that I'd read the passage as though it excluded prayers other than petitioning God
for things. Instead we need to include worship, and praise, and thanksgiving, waiting quietly for Him,

listening and responding to His voice.

Now, what does the passage really tell us to do if we would have God's peace?

First, rejoice in the Lord. But how to do it? By worshiping Him in every way we know how. If you don't know how, learn how. Let Him become your all in all.

Then, replace active worry with thanksgiving to God, first for Himself, then for all He has done and all the wonderful, impossible things He wants to do for you.

For the rest, read the other side several times a day for a week or more. Let God show you Himself and His way of peace.