

Because the Lord is Near
Philippians 4:4-7

Introduction:

- What outside forces can be strong motivators to act a certain way?
 1. D_____ may motivate me to run
 2. The presence of strong C_____ may motivate to act properly.
- What should motivate believers in Christ to not just act right, but think and feel right? – Phil 4:5 states *the Lord is n_____* (KJV – *at hand*; NLT interprets this to mean *the Lord is coming soon*)
 1. The word in the Greek text (near) can mean:
 - a. Near in the sense of t_____ (soon, e.g. Jn 2:13)
 - b. Near in the sense of s_____ (close by, e.g. Jn 11:18)
 2. Every time this Greek word is used with:
 - a. Events – it means _____
 - b. Persons or places – it means _____
 3. Phil 4:5 is talking about the Lord Himself, not His coming, and so is stating that our motivation for acting, thinking, and feeling right should be because the Lord Himself is close by.
- How close is the Lord to believers? Does this imply that there is some distance between us and the Lord?
 1. Romans 10:8 states that God's word is **near** believers
 - a. God's word is _____ the believer's mouth (v. 8a)
 - b. God's word is in the believer's h_____ (v. 8b)
 2. We know that the Lord is in our hearts through the _____ (Matt 28:20; 1Cor 6:19)
- Therefore, because the Lord is near (within us):

Keep R_____ in Jesus (4) – our thinking

- How often should we rejoice? – a _____
 1. Does that mean that we cannot be sad, or cry, or be angry? How do we know? (At times _____ was sad, wept, and became angry).
 2. Is it possible to be sad and yet rejoice at the same time? (2Cor 6:10 gives the answer of _____)
- Where must we anchor our joy?
 1. Not in our f_____ - these change all the time
 2. Not in our c_____ - these also change
 3. But in the L_____ - He never changes

- To rejoice in the Lord always is a d_____ to derive your joy from your relationship to Him.

Keep R_____ in gentleness (5) – our actions

- Translations vary – gentleness, forbearance, moderation, reasonableness, being considerate.
 1. 1Tim 3:3 puts this word in contrast to being v_____
 2. Titus 3:2 paints the picture of not being reactionary but responding to others in a c_____ way.
- We are to respond this way to _____ people (whether they are a believer in Christ or not)
 1. To those that h_____ us
 2. To those that h_____ us
 3. To those that speak b_____ of us
 4. To those that are trying to h_____ us.

Keep R_____ in gratitude (6) – our feelings

- Although this is an action it directly relates to our feelings
 1. The first command is negative – don't w_____
 - a. This DOES NOT mean that we should not be c_____ - this moves us to responsible action (stewardship, raising kids properly, working diligently, etc)
 - b. This DOES mean that we should not be in an ongoing state of uneasiness, dwelling on things we cannot change! This causes loss of s_____, high blood pressure, an endless possibility of scenarios.
 2. The second command is positive – let your r_____ known to God (give Him your worries)
 - a. This must be accompanied with the attitude of _____
 - b. How can a person who has been diagnosed with cancer apply this?
- If we keep asking God in an attitude of gratitude:
 1. Are we promised the p_____ of God? No – we already have the peace of God (Rom 5:1) – His peace is not a feeling but a relationship (we are no longer enemies but friends of God)
 2. We are promised that the peace of God will g_____ our hearts and minds (protect our will and emotions from worry).

Conclusion:

Do not wait until you are at the end of your rope before you submit your thoughts, actions, and feelings to the Lord. Do it now and always!