

HOW TO ENJOY YOUR FAMILY

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you.

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

Phil. 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication 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.

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 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.

I. ENTERTAIN positive thoughts about your family. (Philippians 4:1-9)

- Paul's positive thinking about his own church family stirred up ongoing affection. (vs.1)

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

- Euodia and Syntyche's negative thinking stirred up disharmony (vs.2)

Phil. 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. (NASB)

Euodia: “prosperous journey”

Syntyche: “pleasant acquaintance”

“live in harmony” from Greek word *phroneo*: “to think,
or to be wise”

Phil. 4:2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. (TNIV)

- There really are positive and true things to dwell on about one another. (vs. 3)

Phil. 4:3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have **shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel**, together with Clement also and the rest of my **fellow workers**, whose **names are in the book of life**

- Prayer is a promised pathway to peace (vs. 4-7)

Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication 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.

- Pondering the praiseworthy brings peace (vs. 8-9)

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 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.

II. EXPERIENCE God's positive thinking toward you.

- **God is PASSIONATE about you.**

**Zeph. 3:17 The LORD your God is with you,
He is mighty to save.**

He will take great delight in you,

He will quiet you with his love,

He will rejoice over you with singing.

- **God is positive in His thinking about your PAST**

**Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake,
And I will not remember your sins.”**

- **God is positive in His thinking about your FUTURE**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- God is positive in His thinking about you in the PRESENT.

Phil. 3:9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

IMPUTATION: When you trust in Jesus, not only are your sins forgiven, but you are also **CREDITED WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.** That's how God thinks of you! That is your status before Him.

III. ENCOURAGE your family with specific affirmation.

1Th. 5:11 Therefore encourage one another
and build up one another,
just as you also are doing.

Heb. 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as
long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will
be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb. 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together,
as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*;
and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

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- I. ENTERTAIN POSITIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.**
- II. EXPERIENCE GOD'S POSITIVE THINKING TOWARD YOU.**
- III. ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY WITH SPECIFIC AFFIRMATION.**