



Study Guide

Philippians 4:1-9

Read Philippians 4:1-9

1. What reason do we have to stand firm? (Hint: Look at the end of chapter 3) What kinds of situations/circumstances can test your ability to stand firm?
2. What are some examples of varying opinions that Christians can have? What was Paul's instruction to those in conflict in verse 2? What was the instruction to those on the outside looking into the conflict in verse 3?
3. Is Paul saying that Christians must agree and think the same? **Read Acts 15:36-41.** How can there be disagreement and yet be of the same mind in the Lord?
4. There are certain events that call for celebration: birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, great sports plays, etc. Our celebrations are contingent on times/opportunities we feel are worth celebrating. How does that differ from what Paul says to do in verse 4?

5. We may think about rejoicing when God answers our prayers or does something significant from our perspective. However, that is not the only time that we are to rejoice. **Read Habakkuk 3:17-19.** What reason would Habakkuk have to not rejoice? What reason did Habakkuk have to rejoice? How is that a good reminder for us?

6. Verse 6 says not to be anxious about anything. What is at the root of anxiety? How does Paul ground an uncertain situation to a known truth in verses 6-7? What are some situations you have been/are anxious about? Is there any situation we face that is excluded from the promise Paul gives?

7. What makes verse 8 challenging in a time when we have 24/7 news and social media? Just because something is challenging does not mean that it is impractical or irrelevant. What practices could we put into practice to make sure that the kinds of thoughts verse 8 proclaims are what we live out?

8. Would you be comfortable telling someone else what Paul told the Philippians in verse 9? Why or why not? If not, what areas do you see a need for improvement?

9. We grow as disciples of Jesus through teaching and modeling. Who has been someone that has been a good model of a Jesus follower to you? Who have you tried to be a model to?

For next week: Read Philippians 4:10-23

