



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

STANDING FIRM IN PRAYER PHILIPPIANS 4:6B-7  
TO: WYOMING LEGISLATORS, SPOUSES AND THE GOVERNOR  
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*Paul exhorts us in Philippians to stand firm, united in our purpose to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoicing with a forbearing spirit that remains patient even when submitted to mistreatment from others and all for the sake of the Gospel! Then Paul reminds us of the great truth that God is present with us always! He is near to every believer every moment of every day. He knows what we are going through and because our Lord is near, He is able to give us aid, carry our load, our burdens and our concerns. He is able to give us grace to help in time of need and His grace is sufficient for all our trials and hardships both now and in the future. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) This stands in contrast to fret and worry which reveal a lack of trust in God's sovereignty and power. Our confidence in life doesn't come from ourselves but the all powerful God! That's why Paul tells us not to worry about one thing! There is nothing we are to worry about because we are saying there is something God can't handle. May we remember that God is near and therefore be anxious for nothing! May we rest in the confidence of our God and thus steadfast, standing firm. God gives us everything we need to live the life He has called us to. It's a high calling but His grace is sufficient and His presence is assured.*

## I. TAKE EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER- PHILIPPIANS 4:6B-7

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*

God promises His presence and peace to those who live rejoicing in the Lord. It is this believer who *relies on* and *trusts in* God's sovereignty through life and though submitted to injustice or mistreatment, the believer is anxious for nothing because of his/her trust in the Lord. While we are to be anxious for *nothing*, by contrast we are to take *everything* to God in prayer and His peace will guard our hearts and minds.

## A. TAKE EVERYTHING+ PHILIPPIANS 4:6B

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything..." Philippians 4:6b*

We are commanded not to be anxious because our worry shows a lack of trust in the Lord. By contrast, we are to take **everything** to God.

**everything**+Greek word **pas**,+means all things individually and all things in their totality, inclusive with nothing excluded.

Paul is saying that anything and everything in life that could cause us to be anxious, we need to bring them to Him in prayer. Believers, who stand firm in Christ, respond to trials and endure hardship with thankful prayer. Paul

first commands us not to worry but instead to take all things to God in prayer.

## B. BY PRAYER+ SUPPLICATION+ REQUESTS+ PHIL.4:6

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6*

Paul uses three words here for prayer; prayer, supplication and requests. We know God is near, we know He is sovereign and we know He can handle our worries and concerns so the next step is to bring those concerns to Him with a thankful heart in prayer. We will look at thankful in a moment because that certainly represents our key attitude. But what exactly does Paul mean by prayer. Give consideration to the following definitions.

**prayer**+Greek word **proseuche**,+means an act of praying to God, prayer or vow made to God.

**supplication**+Greek word **deesis**,+means a prayer for a particular benefit or a request for something specific.

**requests**+Greek word **aitema**,+gives the sense of multiple petitions of men to God. Plural denoting more than one.

All three words refer to direct requests made of God. Paul repeats this exhortation three times emphasizing our great need to take all things without exception repeatedly to God in prayer. At the first hint of a need or problem we are to drop to our knees before God and present our concerns to the Lord. We present our needs to the Lord repeatedly with a trust and reliance upon His certain, gracious provision and willingness to help in our times of need.

God knows our tendency to go to someone else for help. Even as believers, we will go to the world for answers to life's difficulties. It is there we may turn for counseling or some method we think can help solve or give solutions to the problems we are facing. But Paul commends us to go to God, repeatedly with a thankful heart presenting our requests to Him and trusting He is big enough for all of life's problems we struggle with. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 Paul writes, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is

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## STANDING FIRM IN THIS WAY PHIL. 4:5B-6A

*common to man; and God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” This is a promise and one that encourages us to do the right thing because it is pleasing to God. He alone can enable us to bear up under the load. Remember Romans 8:28 which says, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

God keeps on causing everything (*leaves nothing out*) to work together for our good and His glory! Do we really believe this? Sometimes it’s so hard to keep that focus as we go through difficult trials. Paul understood this and therefore he admonishes us to go to the Lord constantly in prayer. Go to God first, and go repeatedly to Him. It is He alone Who gives grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

### C. **%WITH THANKFULNESS+** PHILIPPIANS 4:6B

*“but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving...” Philippians 4:6b*

The attitude we are to have when presenting our supplications to the Lord is one of thankfulness. Do we go to God with a thankful heart? Never does Paul hint at the believer questioning God for what has come into his/her life, or doubting God or blaming God for anything. In contrast, the attitude we drop to our knees with is one of thankfulness and gratitude to the Lord. All difficulties are within God’s ability to help and protect and are within His sovereign control. And so we turn to the Almighty God with an attitude of thankful hearts that humbly acknowledge our submission to His work and will in our lives.

### D. **%THE PEACE OF GOD WILL GUARD+** PHILIPPIANS 4:7

*“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7*

Do you love God? Are you called according to His purpose? Then you can be assured that God is near and you need not be anxious. Pray to God in these trials you face with a thankful heart and do what is right before Him. Then God will give you a peace beyond understanding that will guard your heart and mind as you endure and stand firm in the Lord.

1 Peter 5:10 says, “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” Deuteronomy 31:6 reminds us that, “God will not leave us or forsake us.” When you suffer for the name of Christ, and you will on the floor of the House or Senate, you can be assured as you pray with thankful hearts that God will give you a peace that comes only from Him and surpasses all comprehension.

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**%peace+** Greek word **%eirene,** +means rest, denoting a state of being untroubled, undisturbed. It is the inward tranquility of a soul granted by God. It can be the result only accomplished by the reconciliation with Christ.

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We can have this peace as believers! Look at the verse again and you will see that Paul exhorts us to bring our requests to God repeatedly with thankful hearts but doesn’t give us any indication that God will give us our requests as we have asked. *BUT*, this verse does say that He will give us a peace which only comes from Him. God will answer our requests in His way and time, but will always give us His peace. When we become a Christian, we have peace with God. (Romans 5:1) Now that we have *peace with God* we can live with the “*peace of God*” throughout life as we turn to Him repeatedly in prayer. What kind of peace is this??

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**%comprehension+** Greek word **%nous,** +means our intellectual faculty, the organ of mental perception and apprehension.

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It is a peace that surpasses all our comprehension. It is a peace that is greater than anything we could ever imagine with our mind. It is a stable and securing factor that will give us consistency in our walk with a peace, a calm and a rest in our sovereign Lord. (Hebrews 4:16) And it is this peace which will guard our *heart* and *mind* as we endure times of trials and testing.

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**%guard+** Greek word **%phroureo,** +a military term to mount a guard, a watcher in advance of attack, to watch, protect, post a garrison.

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As we go to God in prayer, God gives us His peace that watches over our hearts and minds as we serve Him! It is this peace that rules our thoughts which can easily race towards fear instead of faith. In place of fear, God gives us a peace we can’t understand that enables us to stand firm through all of life; guarding, protecting and watching over our hearts and minds!