

People of Peace
Philippians 4:1-9

God is passionate about your peace! But this peace is not passive.

(v.6) Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything] and the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

(v.9) [Follow my way of life] and the God of Peace will be with you.

Peace is not only a condition for spiritual combat, it is quite often the goal itself... One of the most common strategies of the Devil in his efforts to distance us from God and to slow our spiritual progress is to attempt to cause the loss of our interior peace.

—Father Jacques Philippe, *Searching For And Maintaining Peace*

We've had a tutorial on worry this year. Anxiety is coursing through American society. It has become its own destructive character on the national stage.

—David Brooks, NY Times—The Epidemic of Worry

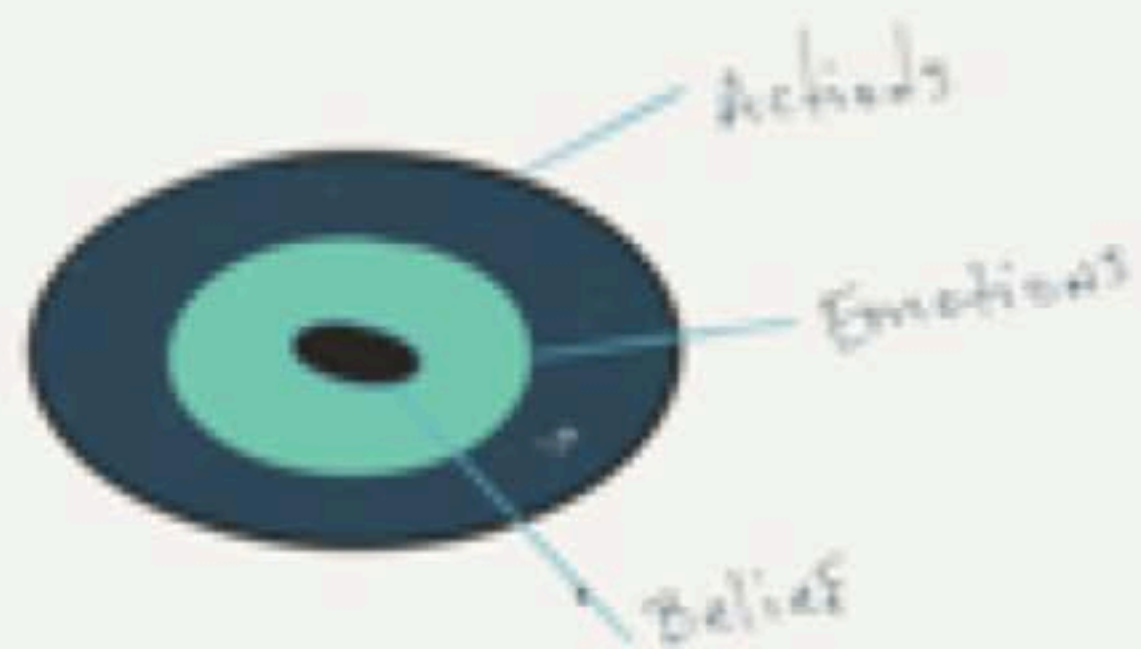
CONFLICT (v.2)

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

CONTROL (v.6-7)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Core Beliefs



Worry alters the atmosphere of the mind. It shrinks your awareness of the present and your ability to enjoy what's around you right now. It cycles possible bad futures around in your head and forces you to live in dreadful future scenarios, 90 percent of which will never come true. Pretty soon you are seeing the world through a dirty windshield. Worry dims every sunrise and amplifies mistrust. A mounting tide of anxiety makes people angrier about society and more darkly pessimistic about the possibility of changing it. Spiraling worry is the perverted underside of rationality.

—David Brooks, *The Epidemic of Worry*

COUNTER NARRATIVES (v.8-9)

...Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me —put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

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PEACEMAKER (v.3)

Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel

PRAYER PARTNER (v.6-7)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The peace of God will guard (Garrison) your heart and mind in Christ Jesus

PRACTITIONER (v.8-9)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me —put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

“All of the reasons that cause us to lose our sense of peace are bad.”

—Fr. Jacques Philippe

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“Consider the surface of a lake, about which the sun is shining. If the surface of the lake is peaceful and tranquil, the sun will be reflected in this lake; and the more peaceful the lake, the more perfectly will it be reflected. If, on the contrary, the surface of the lake is agitated, undulating, then the image of the sun can not be reflected in it. The More our soul is peaceful and tranquil, the more God is reflected in it, the more His image expresses itself in us, the more His grace acts through us. What are some ways that God is calling you to actively participate in your own peace or the peace of others?”

—Fr. Jacques Philippe

(v.4) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.