

Philippians 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request
with joy,

Analysis

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy (πάντοτε ἐν πάσῃ δεήσει μου, *pantote en pasē deēsei mou*)—The repetition of *pas* ("all/every") emphasizes comprehensiveness: always...every prayer...for you all. **Making request** (δέησις, *deēsis*, specific petition) distinguishes from general prayer (*proseuchē*), suggesting Paul had particular needs in mind for this congregation.

With joy (μετὰ χαρᾶς, *meta charas*)—the first of 16 references to joy/rejoicing in Philippians. Paul prays joyfully despite chains, establishing the letter's dominant theme: joy independent of circumstances, rooted in Christ. The preposition *meta* ("with") shows joy accompanies, permeates, characterizes his intercession. True prayer should be joyful labor, not grim duty.

Historical Context

Paul wrote from imprisonment (probably Rome, AD 60-62), facing possible execution (1:20-23, 2:17). Yet joy pervades this prison epistle. Roman detention allowed visits and correspondence (Acts 28:30-31), explaining how Epaphroditus delivered the Philippians' gift and Paul could send this letter. Ancient imprisonment was harsh—prisoners depended on outside support for food.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What would it take for you to pray 'with joy' in circumstances like Paul's imprisonment?
2. Do your prayers for others include specific requests (deēsis) or remain vague generalities?
3. How can the joy-theme of Philippians reshape your perspective on current trials?

Interlinear Text

πάντοτε	ἐν	πάντων	δέησιν	μου	ὑπὲρ	πάντων	ὑμῶν
Always	in	all	prayer	of mine	for	all	you
G3842	G1722	G3956	G1162	G3450	G5228	G3956	G5216

μετὰ	χαρᾶς	τὴν	δέησιν	ποιούμενος
with	joy	G3588	prayer	making
G3326	G5479		G1162	G4160

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 1:2 (Kingdom): We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

2 John 1:4 (Kingdom): I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Romans 1:9 (Prayer): For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

