

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 prayer making
G3326 G5479 G3588 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;

