

Philippians 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Analysis

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Mēden merimnate ("be anxious for nothing")—merimnaō ("worry, be anxious"). Instead: proseuchē kai deēsis meta eucharistias ("prayer and petition with thanksgiving"). Gratitude prevents entitled complaining. This verse contributes to Philippians chapter 4's themes of joy, peace, contentment, and gratitude—Paul's prison epistle climax showing joy transcending circumstances through Christ's sufficiency.

Historical Context

Philippians chapter 4 concludes Paul's most joyful letter, written from Roman imprisonment (c. AD 60-62). The Philippian church, Paul's most faithful financial partner, sent support via Epaphroditus. Paul's gratitude, exhortations to joy and peace, and contentment teaching modeled Christ-centered living regardless of external circumstances—a powerful witness in the Roman world.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge your perspective on Antidote to anxiety?
2. What specific application can you make from this teaching this week?
3. How does this verse point to Christ's sufficiency in all circumstances?

Interlinear Text

μηδέν	μεριμνᾶτε	ἀλλ'	ἐν	παντὶ	τῇ	προσευχῇ	καὶ
for nothing	Be careful	but	in	every thing	G3588	by prayer	and
G3367	G3309	G235	G1722	G3956		G4335	G2532
τῇ	δεήσει	μετὰ	εὐχαριστίας	τὰ	αἰτήματα	ὑμῶν	
G3588	supplication	with	thanksgiving	G3588	requests	your	
	G1162	G3326	G2169		G155	G5216	
γνωρίζεσθω	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν				
be made known	unto	G3588	God				
G1107	G4314		G2316				

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:7 (Parallel theme): Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Psalms 55:22 (Parallel theme): Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Matthew 6:8 (Parallel theme): Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Jeremiah 33:3 (Parallel theme): Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalms 62:8 (References God): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Proverbs 16:3 (Parallel theme): Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Colossians 3:17 (References God): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 4:2 (Prayer): Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Ephesians 6:18 (Prayer): Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Luke 18:1 (Prayer): And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;