



Thoughts on Trial (Philippians 4:4-9)

by Isaac Hoza

{4} **Rejoice in the Lord** always. Again, I will say, rejoice! {5} **Let your gentleness** be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. {6} **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; {7} and **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. {8} Finally brethren, **whatever things are true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy** – **meditate on these things**. {9} **The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me**, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

{4} Rejoice **IN THE LORD** ALWAYS AND AGAIN I will say, rejoice!

- Always joyful, always celebrating
- NOT rejoice in your circumstances, not in your achievements, IN THE LORD
- What a wonderful God we serve that He commands us to be full of joy

{5} Let your GENTLENESS be known to all men. **THE LORD IS AT HAND** (near).

- 2 Chronicles 16:9 “The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth, looking to show himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are completely His.
- Gentleness = yielding, patient, softness
- We have gentleness BECAUSE the Lord is near, we lose our gentleness when we think of Him as far away.

{6} Be anxious for NOTHING, but in EVERYTHING by PRAYER and SUPPLICATION, with THANKSGIVING, let your requests be made KNOWN TO GOD.

- Notice the all inclusiveness and exclusiveness. Nothing and Everything.

- With Thanksgiving. Why? Colossians 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
- Known to God – kind of funny to make something known to God who is all knowing. **He desires relationship.**

{7} And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- God does NOT promise that he will give us understanding, He promises a peace that surpasses understanding. Some translations read “comprehension”
- This also does NOT say that understanding is bad, or that we should throw understanding out the window.
- This peace will guard our hearts and minds. How amazing if the entry point to your mind was a guard/filter of peace.
- **Thoughts on trial.** (How to do this answered in number 8)

{8} Whatever things are.....

- **True** - What do we know to be true? All anxiety is rooted in what we DON'T know. The list of things we know for sure probably isn't that long.

- **Noble** - reverend, serious, honorable, grave (having gravity) dignified. Nobility – Kings, knights of the round table, throne room, what would be said of your thoughts if they were put on display in heaven?
- **Just** - Righteous.
- **Pure** - free from defilement, holy and sacred. Boil it down to the essence of the thing. Filter out what doesn't belong: others opinions, fear, etc.
- **Lovely** - pleasing, acceptable, *PROSPHILES* - *pros* - extending toward - *phileo* - affectionate caring / love. Prospiles is toward caring, toward love, toward connection. The enemy wants to isolate and alienate, the Lord wants connection.
- **Of good report** - spoken highly of. Focus on the positive!
- **Virtuous** - part of this word that means manliness, character, moral goodness
- **Praise Worthy** - there is only one who is worthy of praise
- Meditate on these things....greek word is the root for where we get "logic" definition is to reason to a logical conclusion.

{9} The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- This is my dream to be able to write to my kids, and anyone who would look up to me.
- Collectively, as we look at these things, “**whatever things are true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy**,” there should be one clear answer they all point to. As Paul said, the one thing I know is Christ and Him crucified. Our greatest challenge as followers of Jesus is to believe the gospel. The true GOOD NEWS, that Jesus lived the life we should have but could not live, and died the death that we deserved.

Isaac Hoza