

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | Ephesians | **Philippians** | Colossians

Lesson #16 – Philippians 4

Main Idea

Philippians 4 is a powerful conclusion to Paul's letter, offering encouragement, instruction, and gratitude. He begins by urging unity between two women in the church and calling on believers to rejoice in the Lord always. Paul emphasizes the importance of gentleness, prayer, and thanksgiving as antidotes to anxiety, promising that God's peace will guard their hearts and minds. He encourages the Philippians to dwell on what is true, noble, right, pure, and praiseworthy. Paul then shares his personal experience with contentment, explaining that he has learned to be at peace in both abundance and need through Christ who strengthens him. He expresses deep gratitude for the Philippians' financial support, acknowledging their generosity and reassuring them that God will supply all their needs. The chapter ends with final greetings and a blessing, reminding believers of God's presence and faithfulness. It's a chapter filled with joy, peace, and practical wisdom.

Overview of Chapter 4

Verses 1–9 Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

Verses 10-20 Thanks for Their Gifts

Verses 21-23 Final Greetings

Questions for Consideration

1. How does Paul encourage the believers in Philippi to handle anxiety, and what does he say will be the result of doing so? Consider verses 6 and 7, where Paul speaks about prayer and the peace of God.
2. What specific virtues does Paul tell the Philippians to focus their thoughts on, and why might this be important for spiritual health? Refer to verse 8 for the list of things that are true, noble, right, etc.)
3. In verses 11–13, which includes the famous "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," passage, what does Paul reveal about contentment in all circumstances, and how does he say he has learned it?
4. How did the Philippians support Paul during his ministry, and how does he respond to their generosity? Note in verses 14–18 discuss their gifts and Paul's gratitude.
5. According to verse 19, what promise does Paul give the Philippians concerning their needs, and what is its significance?

Homework: Read Colossians 1. What do verses 15 through 20 tell us about Jesus?



Philippians 4 (NIV)

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, 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. ⁹Whatever 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.

Thanks for Their Gifts

¹⁰I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

¹⁴Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

²¹Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. ²²All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.^[a]

Footnotes

- a. [Philippians 4:23](#) Some manuscripts do not have *Amen*.

