



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

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Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

NC0183

TITLE: Creating the Habit of Peace

Some people have called God the Grand Weaver. He weaves together the moments of our lives to create a beautiful tapestry. Our problem is we often are so focused on the issues at hand, we don't step back and see the beautiful picture God is making. A number of years ago, my wife and I were visiting Kansas City. The art museum was featuring Monet's Water Lilies. The display showed the process Monet went through to create this masterpiece. Well, if you looked at each stroke individually, it was ugly. It wasn't telling the story. If you began looking at just a small section of that painting, it wouldn't make sense. But when we stepped back and saw the whole picture, it was breathtaking.

We have the power to do that in our own lives when we create a very simple habit. What is that habit? The Apostle Paul will tell us in Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV):

“do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.”

This passage is by far one of my favorites in all of Scripture. My wife and I memorized it when our son was battling cancer. What did Paul just say? Well, Pastor Nat's version: “Worry about nothing. Pray about everything.” Remember, Paul just said in the previous verses, “Always be joyful! Let people experience your kindness and generosity. Jesus is near you.” And that's when he says, “When lightning strikes, don't worry. Instead, with gratefulness, tell God what you want and need. When we do this, we will experience divine, lasting peace.”

That's the habit. When life happens, stop, ask with gratitude, and receive peace. Does this really work? Yes. My son always reminds me, when problems arise, to stop and pray. When our ceiling and walls began to fill with water this winter, I began to hit the panic button. But my son said, “Dad, don't worry. Pray.” I did, and it worked.

You see, when we recognize the nearness of Jesus, and the peace and help the Father provides, we begin to zoom out from the problems and see the Grand Weaver's masterpiece. Yes, this paint dab may look really ugly. And, it may be a very long stroke. However, just know the Grand Weaver is at work. So stop, ask with gratitude, and receive the peace.

So here are my challenges for you today: First, what paint stroke are you focusing on today that is causing you to worry? Identify it. Then stop, ask with gratitude, and receive the peace. It's there. Ask and receive it.

Second, I want you to share this video with someone you care about. Right below this video, you will see a share icon. Share it with a friend via text, social media, or e-mail. Everyone can benefit from creating the habit to creating peace.

When we stop, ask, and receive, we will win the day.