

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 10
PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17 – NOVEMBER 22

STANDING FIRM IN THE LORD

In the passage we are studying this week, we see Paul repeat a number of the themes that flow through the book of Philippians. He again expresses his deep love and affection for his brothers and sisters, and Paul encourages them to rejoice together with him, considering the Lord Jesus Christ as the greatest source of joy. He also repeats the instruction to the believers to stand firm in the Lord. (Phil 1:27) In **Phil. 4:2-9**, Paul addresses the multiple ways in which Christians can stand firm in the Lord.

1. How does Paul describe his relationship and affection for the Philippian saints In **Philippians 4:1**?

In **Phil 4:1**, Paul commands the Philippians to “stand firm” which means to remain steadfast in your convictions and devotion to Christ even when faced with opposition, difficulties, discouragement, or attempts to persuade you otherwise.

2. How do the following passages help you to understand what it means to “stand firm”?

- **I Cor. 15:58**

- **I Cor.16:13**

- **Galatians 5:1**

- **Eph 6:10-14**

- **Col. 2:5**

3. From **Phil. 4:2-5**, what was happening in the Philippian church? How does Paul counsel the church to address the issue?

4. How does Paul's statement in **verse 5(b)** that “the Lord is near” help us to stand firm in the Lord?

Referring to the phrase “the Lord is near”, John MacArthur states: “Paul's emphasis here is on the Lord's presence. He is near both to hear the cry of the believer's heart and to help and strengthen them... Because of God's nearness, believers should not be fearful, anxious or wavering. They should not collapse but be strong and stable.” [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), page 277.

5. How does Paul address the sin of anxiety in **verses 6-7**?

6. What does God promise when you apply the truth of **verse 6**?

“People become worried, anxious, and fearful because they do not trust in God's wisdom, power or goodness. They fear that God is not wise enough, strong enough or good enough to prevent disaster. It may be that this sinful doubt is because their knowledge of Him is faulty or that sin in their lives has crippled their faith. Thankful prayer brings release from fear and worry, because it affirms God's sovereign control over every circumstance and that His purpose is the believers' good (Romans 8:28). [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), page 277.

7. Read **Matthew 6:25-34**. From that passage, what should you do and not do?

8. From **Phil 4:8-9**, what does Paul tell you to think and do? Define and explain each of the qualities Paul lists in **vs. 8**.

9. In **verse 9**, Paul instructs believers to “practice” or “do” these things. What does it mean to practice or do these things?

10. From **Phil. 4:8-9**, what is the promised result of “meditation on” or “dwelling on” these things and practicing or doing these things?

11. How do the commands and promises of **Philippians 4:1-9** personally challenge you? What will you begin to practice this week as a result of this challenge?