

# THE DIFFERENCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE! PHIL. 4:6-9

“After two or three weeks I recognized the problem wasn’t the food. The problem was with me!”

**Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

So, what are the differences that make the difference?

## I. God’s people respond / react differently!

**Philippians 4:6** Be careful for **nothing** (Μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε); but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving **let** your requests be made known unto God.

The most important idea is the first phrase.

The Word of God immediately challenges our false ideas:

- I can somehow create a world / life that has no worries / nothing to worry about.
- Or, I can accumulate enough stuff, toys, escapes, addictions,...to escape my worries!

**No:**

- Stuff happens
- Stuff that makes us worry happens
- Stuff that we can’t prevent from happening
- Stuff that is always happening

So what then are the differences that make a difference?

- We don’t worry
- We stop worrying

**Psalm 37:1** Fret **not** thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. **Psalm 37:2** **For** they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. **Psalm 37:3** **Trust** in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. **Psalm 37:4** **Delight** thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. **Psalm 37:5** **Commit** thy way unto the LORD; **trust also** in him; and he shall bring it to pass. **Psalm 37:6** And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

**Matthew 6:31** Therefore take **no** thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

**Matthew 6:32** (**For** after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) **for** your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **Matthew 6:33** **But** seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. **Matthew 6:34** Take therefore **no** thought for the morrow: **for** the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. **Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

- We start praying

**1 Peter 5:7** Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

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

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** Pray without ceasing.

**Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; **but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

➤ **We give thanks**

**Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing give thanks: **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

**Ephesians 5:20** Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

## II. God’s people think differently!

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.**

**The question & a statement:**

**Why are you thinking about that?**

Christians **don’t** think that way!

**Thoughts:**

- We think about different things
- We choose what we think about
- We think differently about different things!
- We choose when & where we think about what we think about!

He / she is always negative, bitter, glass empty, critical, depressed...!

**Why are you thinking like that?**

Christians **don’t** think like that!

True (ἀληθής)	True, truthful, genuine, real
Honest (σεμνός)	Honorable, worthy of respect
Just (δίκαιος)	Just, right
Pure (ἀρετή)	Holy, pure, chaste
Lovely (προσφιλής)	Lovely, pleasing, agreeable
Good report (εὐφημος)	Praiseworthy, appealing, commendable
If...virtue (ἀρετή)	Moral excellence, virtue
If ... praise (ἔπαινος)	Praiseworthy, worthy of approval

**Why are you thinking about / like that?**

Christians **don’t** think about / like that!

## III. God’s people live differently!

**Philippians 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do: and** the God of peace shall be with you.

**Psalms 119:60** I made haste, and delayed **not** to keep thy commandments.