

The Anchor of Peace in the Father's Heart (Part 2)

Anchored in Christ: A Journey to Joy and Peace

Pekin First Church of the Nazarene

Father's Day Sunday, June 15, 2025

Rev. Lloyd Brock, NWIL District Superintendent

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV) *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

KEY POINTS FROM THE SCRIPTURE:

1. The Command to Rejoice – The Foundation for Joy (v. 4):

- **Philippians 4:4 (NIV)** *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”*

Our joy is anchored in the Lord, not our circumstances. For fathers, this means finding deep-seated gladness in Christ even amidst life's pressures.

2. The Call to Graciousness – The Influence of Gentleness (v. 5a):

- **Philippians 4:5a (NIV)** *“Let your graciousness be evident to all.”*

Let kindness, understanding, and patience mark our interactions. A gracious father models Christ-like character, fostering trust and peace in the home.

3. The Reality of God's Nearness – Confidence in God's Close Presence (v. 5b):

- **Philippians 4:5b (NIV)** *“The Lord is near.”*

The Lord is intimately present with us, providing confidence and comfort. Fathers, you are never alone in your calling; God is your constant partner.

4. The Remedy for Anxiety – The Practice of Prayer and Thanksgiving (v. 6):

- **Philippians 4:6 (NIV)** *“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*

Instead of worrying, we are called to bring everything to God in prayer and petition, always with thanksgiving. This transforms worry into worship and leads to peace.

5. The Gift of God's Transcendent Peace – A Guarded Heart and Mind (v. 7):

- **Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)** *“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

When we live out these truths, the supernatural "peace of God" guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, providing an unshakeable calm in any storm.

FATHER'S DAY REFLECTION & APPLICATION:

- What anxieties are you currently carrying? How can you intentionally surrender them to God through prayer and thanksgiving this week?
- How can you demonstrate graciousness more consistently in your home and relationships, especially as a father?
- How does knowing "the Lord is near" change your perspective on the challenges you face?

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER BY OUR MEN:

**“Lord, help me lead with joy.
Help me speak with gentleness and graciousness.
Help me pray with faith and thanksgiving.
Help me live with peace.
For Your glory and my family's good. Amen”**

Father's Day Prayer – Let's surround and cover our men with prayer!

Closing Song: “Good, Good Father”

This song beautifully reflects God's love and sets the tone for fathers to embrace their important role with confidence.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We celebrate all fathers and father figures today. Thank you for your dedication, love, and leadership. May God richly bless you!

NEXT WEEK:

Anchored in Christ: Part 3 – The Anchor of Thought (Philippians 4:8-9) – Cheryl Sherwood