

# Life Verses

## The Joy of Heavenly Citizenship

Philippians 4:4-7

*Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

### MAIN IDEAS

- Be Joyful
- Be Gentle
- Be Prayerful
- Be Peaceful

Read Philippians 1:27 and 3:17-21. What are the reasons Paul gives the brothers and sisters in Philippi for copying his example of life?

How does being a citizen of heaven compare to being a citizen of an earthly country? Consider 1 Peter 2:1-17.

How did Jesus exhibit gentleness or “sweet reasonableness” in His earthly ministry?

What is the difference between genuine concern and anxiety? How does communication with God affect our concerns?

How does God's peace guard our hearts and minds?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

How do you live in the tension of being both a citizen of heaven and the United States? Do you use your citizenship as a child of God for your own benefit or for the benefit of

others? What changes might you need to make to imitate Jesus and Paul?

What is your joy tied to? How are faith, prayer, and thankfulness tied to joy?

How would you engage with others if you knew it was their only interaction with a Christian? What steps do you need to take to be more “sweetly reasonable”?

How would it change your life if you prayed about *everything*?

It is said that your thoughts become your beliefs. How does Philippians 4:8-9 help shape our beliefs as citizens of heaven?

Pray:

- Confession to God for not fully trusting Him to care for you as He promises.
- Thanksgiving to God for calling us His own children and meeting us where we are.
- For God to show you how to focus on Him and not your situation and thereby increase in your joy.
- For God to work in your life so as to be able to say “imitate me” as you live for Christ.

## REPRODUCE

Share a time when you and God played out Philippians 4:4-7 with a brother or sister in need of encouragement.

Consider joining a prayer group already in existence or start a one-on-one prayer time with a brother or sister so that you can lift up your concerns with thanksgiving and joy.

## KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Philippians 1:27
- Philippians 3:17-21
- Philippians 4:4-9
- Psalm 43:4
- Philippians 2:3-5
- Proverbs 15:1
- Matthew 6:25-33
- John 14:27

Additional verse from the study:

- 1 Peter 2:1-17