



“THANKSGIVING AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD”

October 11, 2026

Philippians 4:1–7(NIV)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Notes:

Anxiety (Problems in a broken world)

How can we be thankful for the difficult things God allows into our lives?

Thanksgiving (Sovereignty of God and the Providence of God)

“God’s sovereignty is His absolute power, authority, and right to rule over all creation, whereas His providence is the active, wise, and ongoing way He sustains and guides everything in the universe to fulfill His purposes.”

Verses on God's Sovereignty

Psalms 115:3 “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

Daniel 2:21: God “removes kings and sets up kings”, showing His rule over nations.”

Isaiah 46:9–10: God declares, “My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.”

Ephesians 1:11: He “works all things according to the counsel of his will.”

Verses on God's Providence

Proverbs 16:9: “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”

Matthew 10:29–31: “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. So even the hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Romans 8:28: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good . . .”

Prayer

Why do we need to pray if God determines what will happen?

- God commands it
- The mystery of Prayer
- The intimacy of Prayer

Peace

- The guard around our hearts and minds
- The best reason for Thanksgiving