

Heaven Citizenship- Living It Out!

Philippians 4:4-9

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. -Philippians 3:20a

1. Participatory Rejoicing vs. 4-5a

The source of joy is through the participation in God's unfolding story of redemption; joyfully responding to those within the church and those who are not with such gentleness, and mercy that should characterize a believer's life (2 Corinthians 10:1)

Questions:

- Is being joyful difficult for you? What are some things in your life that tend to make rejoicing difficult? What are some practical ways that we can rejoice during hardships?

2) Prayers of Thankfulness vs. 5b-7

The peace of God that guards our hearts and minds in Christ no matter what the situation is accessed through prayers of thanksgiving; prayers that emphasize that God is present, God has a purpose, and God is sovereign. As we declare our dependence on God, our gaze will remain focused on living in the present moment, where God is sovereign and therefore, we do not need to be anxious. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Questions:

- What's your natural response when you are anxious?
- How does coming to God in prayer and praise help relieve anxiety?
- When you feel anxious or begin to worry what do you do to feel better? What would it look like for you to use prayer and your mind to fight for joy or peace like Paul is describing?
- What practical steps do we need to take to keep our gaze focused in the present moment where God is sovereign?

3) Proactive Living vs. 8-9

We are to live out our new reality; living life in the new reality of living life in Christ. This requires strengthening through putting the virtues into action; whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable while surrounding ourselves with anything that is excellent and praiseworthy. The result, the God of peace will be with you.

Questions:

- What sorts of things occupy your mind? How does your preoccupation with these things affect your relationships? How does it affect your joy in the Lord? How does it affect your peace or your relationship with the God of peace?