

Hallelujah Anyway, Part 15

Pastor Steve Berger August 23, 2015

Hallelujah Anyway

- **Hallelujah Anyway**... having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!

Hallelujah Anyway Produces Prevailing Peace During Perilous Times

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
 - But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

**This kind of society not only produces peril
but sows seeds of even greater evil!**

- **Mark 13:12-13**
 - Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
- **Luke 21:26**
 - Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

**Questions — Can you experience a prevailing peace from God during perilous times?
Does God offer peace that is stronger than adverse circumstances?**

Answer — ABSOLUTELY!

- **Proverbs 22:3**
 - A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

**We must see the increased danger coming and take precautions
so we don't suffer consequences—
rather we enjoy a prevailing peace!**

- Paul gives us a prescription in order to have a prevailing peace
 - while in prison now, he's remembering his Philippian imprisonment, and the prevailing peace he had then, and how he had it, teaches us to follow his lead...
- **Acts 16:22-25**
 - Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer

to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Paul had a prevailing peace through prayer, rejoicing, focusing on God, not peril!

- so when he writes, it's not mere speculation, it's personal experience that produces a prevailing peace
- **Philippians 4:4**
 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
 - **rejoice** — is to have a calm happiness — a solid, stable, unwavering happiness
 - **in the Lord** — Who He is, what He does, NOT IN CIRCUMSTANCES!
 - **always** — rejoicing isn't a scheduled event, it's a constant attitude
 - **again** — emphasizing the importance of having a solid, stable happiness in Jesus... just like he did while he was in prison in Philippi, and throughout his life
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**This rejoicing always, praying without ceasing,
focusing on God attitude — is God's will for our life
and therefore Paul's battle cry!
He knew it produced a prevailing peace in perilous times.**

- **Philippians 4:5**
 - Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.
 - **gentleness** — calm reasonableness
 - NOT irrational, unstable, unreasonableness

We're to be known as people who have a calm, stable, reasonableness about us.

- **the Lord is at hand** — His nearness in your life equips and empowers you to have calm happiness and calm reasonableness!
- **Philippians 4:6**
 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 - **be anxious for nothing** — after calm happiness and calm reasonableness — don't be anxious, nervous, unsettled, fearful about anything

Question — How can I do that?

- **in everything** — anything that causes anxiety... anything...
- **by prayer and supplication** — communion, focus, and request
- **with thanksgiving** — prayer and worship, Paul in prison... thanking God for Who He is, What He does, promises, hope, etc.

Scenarios — guidelines for prayers

Provision — “I am thankful You're a loving, generous Father; You know my needs before I ask; You are Jehovah Jireh, my Provider; You will never leave or forsake me; You meet all my needs, according to Your riches in glory...”

Fear — “Thankful I'm in Christ, Christ is in me; thankful greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world; not given spirit of fear, rather power, love and sound mind; given me all the power and authority over the enemy; made me more than a conqueror in Christ...”

... when we start to live, pray and be thankful like that...

- **Philippians 4:7**
 - and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - **peace of God** — calm, quiet, rest, well-being of mind and spirit
 - **surpasses all understanding** — bigger, greater, stronger than any natural reasoning or intellect, it's more powerful than opposing circumstances, it triumphs over my own weaknesses or inabilities... it is able!
 - **guards your heart and mind** — peace of God becomes a garrison, fortress of soldiers to defend the territory of your heart and mind from anxiety, fear and worry

Summary

- **rejoice** in the Lord — calm happiness
- **realize** the Lord is at hand — calm reasonableness
- **request** with thanksgiving — remembering Who Jesus is and What Jesus does
- **receive** peace and protection — that guards my heart and mind from anxiety

Rehearse truth over and over again in my mind...

- **Philippians 4:8-9**
 - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Rehearsing truth is one more thing that causes the God of peace to descend upon your life and bring the peace of God, even in perilous times.

Paul says I taught and showed you this, you know this is real — now do it, and you'll have peace that prevails over peril.

- **Isaiah 26:3-4**
 - You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

Perfect peace, prevailing peace, comes from a focused mind, a genuine trust — and it produces an everlasting strength

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.
We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.
Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.