

# EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (3)

## Training Outlines

### Message One

### Christ as Our Virtues, the Peace of God, Our Secret, and the One Who Empowers Us

EM Hymns: 523, 564, God's Eternal Economy

Scripture Reading: Phil. 4:5-9, 11b-13

- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.  
Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;  
Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.  
Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.  
Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.  
Phil 4:11b ... for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.  
Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.  
Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

#### **I. The virtues of Christ for our experience in Philippians 4:5-9 are the expression of a life that lives Christ—1:19-21a; 2:5-13; 3:8-10:**

- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.  
Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;  
Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.  
Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.  
Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.  
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.  
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...  
Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,  
Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,  
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;  
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.  
Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,  
Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

- A. Paul considers forbearance and the lack of anxiety as the first two aspects of the expression of a life that lives Christ.
- B. Anxiety, coming from Satan, is the sum total of human life and disturbs the believers' life of living Christ; forbearance, coming from God, is the sum total of a life that lives Christ; the two are opposites—Matt. 6:22-34.

- Matt 6:22 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light;
- Matt 6:23 But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
- Matt 6:24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- Matt 6:25 Because of this, I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat or what you should drink; nor for your body, what you should put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than clothing?
- Matt 6:26 Look at the birds of heaven. They do not sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father nourishes them. Are you not of more value than they?
- Matt 6:27 Who among you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature?
- Matt 6:28 And why are you anxious concerning clothing? Consider well the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil, neither do they spin thread.
- Matt 6:29 But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these.
- Matt 6:30 And if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is cast into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, you of little faith?
- Matt 6:31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed?
- Matt 6:32 For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
- Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- Matt 6:34 Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself; sufficient for the day is its own evil.

## II. “Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near”—Phil. 4:5:

- A. According to Christian experience, forbearance is all-inclusive, for it includes all Christian virtues; forbearance is actually the all-inclusive Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit with His bountiful supply—1:19-21a:

- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

1. Forbearance is reasonableness, considerateness, and consideration in dealing with others, without being strict in claiming one's legal rights; forbearance means that we are easily satisfied, even with less than our due:
  - a. Forbearance includes love, patience, kindness, humility, compassion, considerateness, and submissiveness, a willingness to yield; if we have such an

- all-inclusive virtue, we will also have righteousness and holiness.
- b. Forbearance also includes self-control, moderation, gentleness, understanding, sympathy, wisdom, mercy, peacefulness, looking to the Lord, and even the virtue of admitting that the Lord is sovereign in all things—cf. 2 Cor. 12:7-9.
    - 2 Cor 12:7 And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up.
    - 2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
    - 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
2. A forbearing person is one who always fits in, whose behavior is always suitable—cf. 6:1a; 10:1; Phil. 1:19; Isa. 11:2:
    - 2 Cor 6:1a And working together with Him, ...
    - 2 Cor 10:1 But I myself, Paul, entreat you through the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who (as you say) in person am base among you, but while absent am bold toward you,
    - Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
    - Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon Him, / The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, / The Spirit of counsel and might, / The Spirit of the knowledge and fear of Jehovah.
    - a. If we are forbearing, we will have the wisdom and the ability to supply others with what they need; we will also have the full knowledge of what to say to them and when to say it—50:4-5; Col. 1:28; Prov. 25:15.
      - Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.
      - Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.
      - Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
      - Prov 25:15 By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, / And a soft tongue can break the bone.
    - b. To be forbearing is to consider how others will be affected by what we do or say—2 Chron. 1:10.
      - 2 Chron 1:10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?
- B. As an all-inclusive virtue, forbearance is Christ Himself; since Christ is forbearance, for Paul to live was forbearance—Phil. 1:21a:
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
1. To let our forbearance be known to all men is to let the Christ whom we live and magnify, whom we take as our pattern and pursue as our goal, be known to all men.
  2. Only the Lord Jesus lived a life full of forbearance, and only Christ can be our perfect forbearance today—Luke 24:15-19, 28-31; Matt. 17:24-27; John 11:20-34.
    - Luke 24:15 And while they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.
    - Luke 24:16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.
    - Luke 24:17 And He said to them, What are these words which you are exchanging with one another while you are walking? And they stood still, looking sad.
    - Luke 24:18 And one of them, Cleopas by name, answered and said to Him, Do You alone dwell as a stranger in Jerusalem and not know the things which have taken place in it in these days?
    - Luke 24:19 And He said to them, What things? And they said to Him, The things

- concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a Prophet powerful in work and word before God and all the people;
- Luke 24:28 And they drew near to the village where they were going, and He acted as though He would go farther.
- Luke 24:29 And they constrained Him, saying, Stay with us, because it is near evening and the day is already gone by. And He went in to stay with them.
- Luke 24:30 And as He reclined at table with them, He took the loaf and blessed it, and having broken it, He began handing it to them.
- Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He disappeared from them.
- Matt 17:24 And when they came to Capernaum, those who take up the temple tax came to Peter and said, Does not your Teacher pay the temple tax?
- Matt 17:25 He said, Yes. And when he came into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth receive custom or poll tax, from their sons or from strangers?
- Matt 17:26 And when he said, From strangers, Jesus said to him, So then the sons are free.
- Matt 17:27 But that we do not stumble them, go to the sea and cast a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. And when you open its mouth, you will find a stater; take that and give it to them for Me and you.
- John 11:20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him; but Mary sat in the house.
- John 11:21 Then Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.
- John 11:22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.
- John 11:23 Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again.
- John 11:24 Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 11:26 And everyone who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever. Do you believe this?
- John 11:27 She said to Him, Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, He who comes into the world.
- John 11:28 And when she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Teacher is here and is calling you.
- John 11:29 And she, when she heard this, rose quickly and came to Him.
- John 11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.
- John 11:31 The Jews then who were with her in the house and were consoling her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.
- John 11:32 Then Mary, when she came to where Jesus was, saw Him and fell at His feet, saying to Him, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.
- John 11:33 Then Jesus, when He saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her weeping, was moved with indignation in His spirit and was troubled,
- John 11:34 And He said, Where have you put him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see.
3. To make known our forbearance is to live a life that expresses Christ as the totality of all human virtues.
4. Immediately after speaking about forbearance, Paul says that the Lord is near (Phil. 4:5); with respect to space, the Lord is near us, ready to help; with regard to time, the Lord is at hand, coming soon (cf. Rom. 10:8-13); the Lord's being near primarily refers to His presence with us (Matt. 1:23; Exo. 33:14).
- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of the faith which we proclaim,
- Rom 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
- Rom 10:10 For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth

- there is confession unto salvation.
- Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on Him shall not be put to shame."
- Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
- Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- Matt 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which is translated, God with us).
- Exo 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.
- C. We need to learn Christ as the secret (Phil. 4:12) of being transformed, that is, of being metabolically changed in our natural life, in any kind of environment, situation, or circumstance; this practical and simple secret is in verses 6 and 7—"In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus."
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

**III. "When we have problems in our daily life, we do not have to seek advice from others, because we have a spirit in us and the Lord as the Spirit dwelling in our spirit is very near to us. We can ask Him about everything, without any need to use the telephone or the fax machine, for He can talk with us right within us. You can talk with Him and confer with Him in everything. The Lord's Word says, 'In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God' (Phil. 4:6). Hence, if you have some problem, you just need to tell Him. He is right within you, and He is with you face to face. The Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—is in us not to trouble us but to be our Paraclete, Comforter, and Supporter. I always pray, 'O Lord, now I am going to take a walk. Support me, sustain me, and strengthen me.' This is to drink the Lord. In this way I have no anxiety. When anxiety comes, you should say, 'O Lord, this anxiety is Yours, not mine; I give it to you because You bear it for me.' Thus, you receive the Lord's element into you, and metabolism will work constantly in you. Consequently, what is expressed through you outwardly is Christ. This is to live Christ. Those who do not know this secret consider that to live Christ is a difficult thing. Actually, you just need to practice speaking with the Lord constantly; then spontaneously, you will live Christ"—*The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation*, pp. 54-55:**

- A. Christ Himself is the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding—Phil. 4:7; Isa. 9:6; John 14:27; Luke 7:50; Rom. 3:17; 5:1; 8:6; 15:13; 16:20.
- Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- Isa 9:6 For a child is born to us, / A Son is given to us; / And the government / Is upon His shoulder; / And His name will be called / Wonderful Counselor, / Mighty God, / Eternal Father, / Prince of Peace.
- John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
- Luke 7:50 But He said to the woman, Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.
- Rom 3:17 And the way of peace they have not known.
- Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our

- Lord Jesus Christ,  
 Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.  
 Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
 Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- B. The words *in everything* refer to the many different things that happen to us day by day; prayer is general, having worship and fellowship as its essence; petition is special, being for particular needs; both our prayer and our petition should be accompanied by our giving thanks to the Lord—Phil. 4:6.  
 Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- C. *To God* denotes motion toward, in the sense of a living union and communion, implying fellowship; hence, the sense of *to God* here is “in the fellowship with God”—v. 6.  
 Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- D. The result of practicing fellowship with God in prayer is that we enjoy the peace of God; the peace of God is actually God as peace (v. 9) infused into us through our fellowship with Him by prayer, as the counterpoise to troubles and the antidote to anxiety (John 16:33).  
 Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.  
 John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.
- E. The God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil (Isa. 30:15a); if we would have a life free of anxiety, we need to realize that all our circumstances, good or bad, have been assigned to us by God in order to serve us in fulfilling our destiny to gain Christ, live Christ, and magnify Christ (Rom. 8:28-30; Matt. 10:29-31; 2 Cor. 4:15-18).  
 Isa 30:15a For thus says the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, / In returning and rest you will be saved; / In quietness and in trust will be your strength; ...  
 Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.  
 Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;  
 Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.  
 Matt 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And not one of them will fall to the earth apart from your Father.  
 Matt 10:30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.  
 Matt 10:31 Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.  
 2 Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes that the grace which has abounded through the greater number may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.  
 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.  
 2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,  
 2 Cor 4:18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

#### IV. “Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things”—Phil. 4:8:

- A. These virtues are the expressions of God’s attributes lived out from within the pursuers of Christ, who is the embodiment of God.



- B. These virtues are six governing aspects of a life that lives Christ:
1. A life that lives Christ is true—ethically truthful, without any pretense or falsehood.
  2. A life that lives Christ is dignified—honorable, noble, grave, solid, weighty, and worthy of reverence—1 Tim. 3:8, 11; Titus 2:2; cf. Rom. 9:21.
    - 1 Tim 3:8 Deacons must similarly be grave, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for base gain;
    - 1 Tim 3:11 Women similarly must be grave, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.
    - Titus 2:2 Exhort older men to be temperate, grave, of a sober mind, healthy in faith, in love, in endurance;
    - Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
  3. A life that lives Christ is righteous—right before God and man—Phil. 3:9.
    - Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
  4. A life that lives Christ is pure—single in intention and action, without any mixture—Matt. 5:8.
    - Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
  5. A life that lives Christ is lovely—lovable, agreeable, and endearing.
  6. A life that lives Christ is well spoken of—renowned, of good repute, attractive, winning, and gracious—Hosea 14:7.
    - Hosea 14:7 Those who sit under his shade will return; / They will revive like grain / And will bud like the vine; / His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.
- C. Virtue and praise are a summing up of the six foregoing items, in all of which are some virtue or excellence and something worthy of praise—Matt. 5:16.
  - Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.
- D. To be a proper human being is to express God through His divine attributes in our human virtues, to have a human life filled with Christ as the reality of the attributes of God—cf. Gen. 1:26.
  - Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

**V. “I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack. I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me”—Phil. 4:11b-13:**

- A. Paul took Christ as the secret to experience Christ, being content and rejoicing in every kind of circumstance, in any situation, and in any matter because of Christ—v. 4.
  - Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
- B. *I have learned the secret* literally means “I have been initiated”; the metaphor here refers to a person’s being initiated into a secret society with instruction in its rudimentary principles—Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:3-4; 5:32:
  - Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
  - Eph 3:3 That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief,
  - Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
  - Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
1. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and into the Body of

Christ—Acts 9:3-19, 25-28; 22:6-21; 13:1-4.

- Acts 9:3 And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
- Acts 9:4 And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?
- Acts 9:5 And he said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.
- Acts 9:6 But rise up and enter into the city, and it will be told to you what you must do.
- Acts 9:7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.
- Acts 9:8 And Saul rose from the ground; and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. And they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
- Acts 9:9 And he was three days without seeing, and he neither ate nor drank.
- Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.
- Acts 9:11 And the Lord said to him, Rise up and go to the lane called Straight, and seek in the house of Judas a man from Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying;
- Acts 9:12 And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he may receive his sight.
- Acts 9:13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many concerning this man, how many evil things he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem;
- Acts 9:14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Your name.
- Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;
- Acts 9:16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer on behalf of My name.
- Acts 9:17 And Ananias went away and entered into the house; and laying his hands on him, he said, Saul, brother, the Lord has sent Me-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road on which you were coming-so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight and rose up and was baptized.
- Acts 9:19 And once he had taken food, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples in Damascus for some days.
- Acts 9:25 But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.
- Acts 9:26 And when he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples; yet all feared him, not believing that he was a disciple.
- Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and led him to the apostles, and he related to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.
- Acts 9:28 And he was with them, going in and going out in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.
- Acts 22:6 And as I journeyed and drew near to Damascus about midday, suddenly a great light flashed out of heaven around me;
- Acts 22:7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?
- Acts 22:8 And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute.
- Acts 22:9 And those who were with me beheld the light, but did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to me.
- Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.
- Acts 22:11 And as I could not see because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.
- Acts 22:12 And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well attested to by all the Jews dwelling there,
- Acts 22:13 Came to me, and standing by, said to me, Saul, brother, receive your sight!



- And in that very hour I looked up at him.
- Acts 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers has previously appointed you to know His will and to see the righteous One and to hear the voice from His mouth;
- Acts 22:15 For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.
- Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.
- Acts 22:17 And when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I went into a trance;
- Acts 22:18 And I saw Him saying to me, Hurry, and go quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not accept your testimony concerning Me.
- Acts 22:19 And I said, Lord, they know that I was imprisoning and beating from synagogue to synagogue those who believe on You;
- Acts 22:20 And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself also was standing by and approving and keeping the garments of those who did away with him.
- Acts 22:21 And He said to me, Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles.
- Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
- Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.
- Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
- Acts 13:4 They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.
2. Paul learned the secret of how to take Christ as life (Col. 3:4), how to live Christ (Phil. 1:21a), how to magnify Christ (v. 20), how to gain Christ (3:8, 12), and how to have the church life (1:8, 19; 2:1-4, 19-20; 4:1-3).
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ...
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil 2:1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions,
- Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
- Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.
- Phil 2:19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged by knowing the things concerning you.
- Phil 2:20 For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you;
- Phil 4:1 So then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.
- Phil 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.
- Phil 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with

me in the gospel, as well as with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

3. The secret in Philippians 4 is to do all things in Christ as the One who empowers us (v. 13; *Hymns*, #564); as a person in Christ, Paul experienced Christ and applied Him in all circumstances (Phil. 3:9); this Christ is real, living, near, available, and prevailing (4:5b; *Hymns*, #539).

Phil 4 be omitted.

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

*Hymns*, #564

1	I have learned the wondrous secret	Of abiding in the Lord;
	I have tasted life's pure fountain,	I am drinking of His word;
	I have found the strength and sweetness	Of abiding 'neath the blood;
	I have lost myself in Jesus,	I am sinking into God.

CHORUS

I'm abiding in the Lord And confiding in His word;  
I am hiding in the bosom of His love.  
Yes, abiding in the Lord And confiding in His word,  
I am hiding in the bosom of His love.

2	I am crucified with Jesus,	And He lives and dwells with me;
	I have ceased from all my struggling,	'Tis no longer I, but He.
	All my will is yielding to Him,	And His Spirit reigns within;
	And His precious blood each moment	Keeps me cleansed and free from sin.
3	All my sicknesses I bring Him,	And He bears them all away;
	All my fears and griefs I tell Him,	All my cares from day to day,
	All my strength I draw from Jesus,	By His breath I live and move;
	E'en His very mind He gives me,	And His faith, and life, and love.
4	For my words I take His wisdom,	For my works His Spirit's power;
	For my ways His ceaseless presence	Guards and guides me every hour.
	Of my heart, He is the portion,	Of my joy the boundless spring;
	Savior, Sanctifier, Healer,	Glorious Lord, and coming King.

Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Phil 4:5b ... The Lord is near.

*Hymns*, #539

1	O Lord, Thou art in me as life	And everything to me!
	Subjective and available,	Thus I experience Thee.

CHORUS

	O Lord, Thou art the Spirit!	How dear and near to me!
	How I enjoy Thy marvelous	Availability!
2	To all my needs both great and small	Thou art the rich supply;
	So ready and sufficient too	For me now to apply.
3	Thy sweet anointing with Thy might	In weakness doth sustain;
	By Thy supply of energy	My strength Thou dost maintain.
4	Thy law of life in heart and mind	My conduct regulates;
	The wealth of Thy reality	My being saturates.
5	O Thou art ever one with me,	Unrivalled unity!
	One spirit with me all the time	For all eternity!

4. Paul's word about Christ as the empowering One specifically applies to Christ's empowering us to live Him as our human virtues and thereby to magnify Him in His unlimited greatness in every kind of circumstance—Phil. 4:8-13.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.

Phil 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because now at length you have caused your thinking for me to blossom anew; for which matter you had indeed taken

- thought, but lacked opportunity.
- Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
- Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
5. By the empowering of Christ, we can live a contented life and be true, dignified, righteous, pure, lovely, and well spoken of (vv. 11-12, 8); to live a life of these virtues is much more difficult than doing a Christian work.
- Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
6. If we would experience Christ as the empowering One, we need to cooperate with Him in the following matters:
- a. In our practical living on the earth, we must be persons who pray continually by coming before God, entering into Him, and living in the light of His face—Psa. 42:5, 11; 80:1, 3, 7, 19.
- Psa 42:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? / And why are you disquieted within me? / Hope in God, for I will yet praise Him / For the salvation of His countenance.
- Psa 42:11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? / And why are you disquieted within me? / Hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, / The salvation of my countenance and my God.
- Psa 80:1 O Shepherd of Israel, give ear, / You who lead Joseph like a flock; / You who are enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth.
- Psa 80:3 O God, restore us; / And cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.
- Psa 80:7 O God of hosts, restore us; / And cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.
- Psa 80:19 O Jehovah God of hosts, restore us; / Cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.
- b. We need to experience a thorough and fresh forgiveness of our sins, based on the shedding of the Lord's blood on the cross—Heb. 9:14; 10:19, 22; Exo. 24:8; Matt. 26:28.
- Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
- Heb 10:22 Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
- Exo 24:8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, Here is the blood of the covenant, which Jehovah has made with you in accordance with all these words.
- Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
- c. We need to know what ascension is and know that the life we have received is a heavenly life; we should be aware of the fact that we have ascended into the heavens with the Lord and are thus heavenly persons; outwardly, we are still

living on the earth, but inwardly, with respect to our inner life and mood, we are living in the heavens—Eph. 2:6; Heb. 8:1-2; 4:14-15; 7:25-26.

Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

Heb 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens,