

# **16-08-2020 - Worship at Home**

## **Opening Prayer**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
***and also with you.***

We stand before the throne of God  
with countless crowds  
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

***Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour, power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen.***

## **Song: Happy Song**

*(CCLI Song # 1043209)*

Oh I could sing unending songs  
Of how You saved my soul  
Well I could dance a thousand miles  
Because of Your great love

**My heart is bursting Lord  
To tell of all You've done  
Of how You changed my life  
And wiped away the past  
I wanna shout it out  
From ev'ry rooftop sing  
For now I know that God  
Is for me not against me**

*Ev'rybody's singing now  
'Cause we're so happy  
Ev'rybody's dancing now  
'Cause we're so happy  
If only we could see Your face  
And see You smiling over us  
And unseen angels celebrate  
For joy is in this place*

## Confession

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

## Reflection

As we continue our journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians we seen this unique window into both his 'mind' & his 'heart' in three ways:

1. He sees his life as a reflection of Jesus' story.
2. His awareness of Jesus' love & presence gives Paul a hope and humility.
3. And finally knowing Jesus is a deeply personal and transformational relationship for him.

Paul knows that God is the object of his joy, this is why commends us twice to; "Rejoice in the Lord always...I will say it again: Rejoice"

Here Paul is telling us that he has learnt how to be content. He challenges us that even while in prison, and life is not going, as he would want it to be – he is joyful!

So, he knows what it is to live with much and what it is to live with little...He knows what it's to find contentment in Christ alone.

How can we be sure of this? Well he told us right at the start of Philippians (1:21);

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"

For me to live is...What?

And to die is... say that again?

This is a letter about joy and gain...Living for Jesus is an eternal gain!!

Paul has learnt about joy and gain by focussing on Jesus' humility. Jesus chooses to step down from his throne in heaven, so that we may step up and ascend with him into eternity.

Philippians 4 invites us to do two things today

1. *We can have complete confidence that God can do absolutely anything through our lives.*

I can struggle here...if I'm honest. I can and do think God can do anything – he is God! But I'm more positive he can do this 'anything' through others rather than he can do it through me.

However, the truth is it's not about me or about you! God's resources are unlimited - it's about God!

Verse 7 in Philippians says; God's ability is immeasurable, it transcends – goes beyond our range or any limits of our activities.

In Ephesians 4 we also read that God is “.... more than you can ask or imagine” How much more? Well the Greek word here means; 'supa abundantly' – What an outstanding phrase to be supa Abundant!! It's all about the Lord and not about us!!

The reality of this is God's power in us is the power of Jesus resurrection – That's the power he is working with in your life right now.

Obviously, he can be above and beyond what we can imagine. So, let's have the complete confidence that God can do absolutely anything in and through our lives.

2. It's through Christ – so have complete confidence I can do absolutely nothing without the power of Christ in me.

Now I want to say here that there is a lot of 'nothing' done in our world.

- It may indeed make a lot of money,
- It may even make a lot of headlines
- But this nothing secure about this nothing – it has no eternal importance. It will be like a pile of dirty grass that turns into smoke and dust in the end!

Now, I don't know about you, but I don't want to live a life like that...I want to live a life for eternity!!

Jesus told his disciples these words in the upper room the night before his crucifixion;

“I am the vine and you are the branches, if a person remains in me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

This is the key to 'I can do nothing without Christ'. The refreshing thing to me is you don't have to remember a hundred laws to be all that God wants for you.

We just need to remember one thing “stay connected to Jesus” because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

Now that's worth rejoicing about not just once but over and over again.

Pray - The two sides of the coin of one great truth.

John 15:4 "...Apart from me you can do nothing."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through the one who gives me strength."

Jesus is saying with Christ we can do all things, but without I can do nothing!

We all don't feel powerful at times (particularly so in our current circumstances)

The question is are we going to trust in Jesus' power?

If you don't feel powerful at the moment, then plug into God's power and here is the invitation of Philippians 4 for us today.

If you've stopped feeling powerful - start trusting again the one who is all-powerful. With Jesus' power you can get what God can do!

4-5 Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

6-7 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life.

Philippians 4:4-7 (The Message)

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Song: Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord

(CCLI Song # 120824)

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire, with splendor He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place

## Prayers

We pray for:

- **Lebanon.** Pray for the ongoing relief efforts and the people in turmoil after the devastating explosion last week.
- **Hong Kong.** Pray for all those affected by the political unrest in Hong Kong. Pray for governments and leaders to find peaceful solutions.
- **Mauritius.** Pray for those in charge of cleaning up after the oil spill in Mauritius. Pray that the effects of this oil spill will not be as severe as it might be.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Song: Psalm 150**

*(Written by Kate Thornton, Helen Towers-Evans & Nico Marais)*

***O my soul, praise the Lord  
Let everything that lives praise the Lord  
O my soul, praise the Lord  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord***

For our God is stronger, He is mighty to save  
Greatness without measure, to His name be endless praise

***O my soul, praise the Lord  
Let everything that lives praise the Lord  
O my soul, praise the Lord  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord***

For our God is righteous, He is just in all His ways  
Majesty and glory to the King who ever reigns

***O my soul, praise the Lord  
Let everything that lives praise the Lord  
O my soul, praise the Lord  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord***

*Hallelujah, hallelujah  
All creation sings  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Glory to our King*

## **Blessing**

**God of power,  
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and  
worship you now and always.**

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;

*And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
Amen.*