

Spiritual Stability Requires Rejoicing and Gentleness

- **PROPOSITION**: In Philippians 4:1—9 Paul teaches us the _____
_____ so that we will not lose our footing during shaky times.
 - 1) Stand Firm by viewing others rightly (1)
 - 2) Stand Firm by living in harmony (2—3)

3) Stand Firm by _____ (4)

4) Stand Firm by _____ (5)

- **The humble graciousness that produces the patience to endure injustice, disgrace, and mistreatment without retaliation, bitterness, or vengeance. It is contentment.**
- **A humble, patient steadfastness, which is able to submit to injustice, disgrace and maltreatment without hatred or malice, trusting God in spite of it all.**

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions and praying through the issues will help you further meditate upon God's Word in order to see the areas of your life that need change.

1. Ponder the command to "Rejoice in the Lord always." Why as believers do we need to be commanded to do this? What comes to mind that serve as hindrances to rejoicing at all times in the Lord?

2. What theological or doctrinal errors do you believe rob a believer of his or her joy? Name at least five of them that serve in opposition to truly possessing joy in the Lord.

3. Why is gentleness such an important characteristic for the believer? Write a definition of gentleness (search in Bible dictionaries or commentaries for further insight.).

4. When you think about the nearness of the Lord (whether spatially or temporally) what does that do for your motivation in following Him? What are some reasons that the apostle Paul might remind his readers that the Lord is near?

5. What are some additional thoughts and/or application from this morning's lesson? What does this passage teach you about man and about God?

This week's Bible Reading:

<i>Sunday, May 30:</i> 1 Kgs 16:29-18:46 John 5:31-47	<i>Monday, May 31:</i> 1 Kgs 19:1-20:43 John 6:1-21	<i>Tuesday, June 1:</i> 1 Kgs 21:1-22:40 John 6:22-59	<i>Wednesday, June 2:</i> 1 Kgs 22:41-2 Kgs 2:25 John 6:60-7:13
<i>Thursday, June 3:</i> 2 Kgs 3:1-4:37 John 7:14-36	<i>Friday, June 4:</i> 2 Kgs 4:38-7:2 John 7:37-53	<i>Saturday, June 5:</i> 2 Kgs 7:3-9:13 John 8:1-20	<i>Sunday, June 6:</i> 2 Kgs 9:14-10:36 John 8:21-45