

Searching for Peace - Part 2
The Lakefront and Church First Baptist Church - Venice, Florida
One Church - Two Locations November 23, 2025

Last week we learned about WEEDS!

When something negative happens to you, like Paul in prison for preaching Jesus, do you wonder what have you done wrong?

God's Kingdom has wheat (good seed) and weeds growing together. We see God at work redeeming people, changing lives, as He has done in your life!

In the text for last week, we focused on *Rejoice*.

Philippians 4:4-5 (CSB) *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

- We have the peace of God when we REJOICE in WHO God is and WHAT God has done!

Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV) *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

- "worry" - Greek root word means 'to be distracted.'
- God says through Paul you overcome worry (distractions) with thanksgiving.

1. Come into God's presence with JOYFUL THANKSGIVING

Psalms 100:4 - *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.*

Hebrews 13:15 - *Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.*

- Thanksgiving is not an occasional moment—it is a continual action.

2. Thank God for His character, not just His gifts

Psalms 136:1 *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His faithful love endures forever.*

- Thanksgiving becomes deeper when it focuses on who God is.
3. Thank God publicly

Psalm 35:18 - *I will give you thanks in the great assembly.*

Psalm 105:1 - *Make known his deeds among the peoples.*

- Gratitude is meant to be spoken and shared.

4. Thank God with faithfulness

- Thanksgiving shows up in our faithfulness

Romans 12:1 - *present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.*

2 Timothy 4:7 (CSB) *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

- Paul was carrying the New Testament in him.

Genesis 12:1-2 (CSB) *The Lord said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

- Abram (Abraham) was carrying a nation in him.

Genesis 45:1-2 (CSB) *Joseph could no longer keep his composure in front of all his attendants, so he called out, "Send everyone away from me!" No one was with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. ²But (Joseph) he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and also Pharaoh's household heard it.*

Genesis 45:7-8a (CSB) *God sent me ahead of you to establish you as a remnant within the land and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. ⁸Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God. ...*

- Joseph was carrying the destiny of his family and a nation in him.

Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV) *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

- What are you carrying in you?