

STUDY NOTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Moving From Anxiety to Victory” on 5/27/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-13

A CULTURE OF ANXIETY

Most of us find ourselves worrying one way or another. It seems as if Paul’s advice for us to not be anxious isn’t helpful. At first glance, it feels like he just tells us to stop being anxious.

- *What do you find yourself getting anxious about?*

GOD IS NEAR

Paul says that the God near. He is close to you. Not only is he with you, but he loves you and gave everything up to be with you. If you truly believe that God is with you, then you are going to talk to him about everything—including all those things that cause anxiety. Paul says that result of that is that God’s peace will guard you.

The only place we will find true peace is in Jesus.

- *To where do you see people turn to find peace?*
- *Why should knowing that God is close to you motivate you to communicate and share with him?*

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Paul also says that we should focus our minds on the list of things in verse eight. A way we can remember those things is to focus on the one who embodies each of those character traits. When we realize who God is—who Jesus is—then we fall more in love with him and it motivates us to imitate him. In the face of a sinful world, Jesus was faithful to his character.

God is faithful and God is with us.

- *Read Philippians 4:8 by saying, “No matter what, Jesus is...” before each of these character traits listed. What does it do in your heart to hear these things applied to Jesus?*

I AM VICTORIOUS IN ANYTHING

Paul goes on to share how this truth impacted him in Philippians 4:13. Through his experience he realized that when a faithful God is with you, then you can achieve anything. However, when he says “all things”, he means both success and failure. He means winning and losing. What matters is how we handle both success and failure. Life isn’t about being successful. It is about becoming more like Jesus—that’s where we find our true victory.

Satan’s most subversive strategy is to make you successful so that you don’t act like you need Jesus.

- *Success often makes you forget about needing Jesus. How have you experienced this danger of success?*
- *How have you heard this verse used previously? Why do you think it is important to see that Paul also meant that Christians can fail in the strength of Christ?*
- *Pray with each other that we’d each feel that God is faithful and that he is with us this week.*