

**Overview:** The issue of enjoying Christ as our burnt offering, our meal offering, our sin offering, and our trespass offering is the enjoyment of Christ as the peace offering. We need to let our requests be made known to God, talking with Him and conferring with Him in everything. Those who do not know this secret consider to live Christ a difficult thing. Actually, you just need to practice speaking with the Lord constantly. The result of practicing fellowship with God in prayer is that the peace of God, God as peace, is infused into us for our enjoyment as the counterpoise to troubles and the antidote to anxiety. We need to learn the secret of how to have the vital-group church life as a house of feasting—a feast of Christ as the peace offering—where He and His lovers can have rest and satisfaction. Our enjoyment of Christ as our peace offering in our daily life and in the church life consummates in the New Jerusalem as the ultimate peace offering.

**II. Christ is the peace between God and God's people for their coenjoyment in fellowship:**

**A. The one who offered the peace offering was to lay his hand on the head of the offering, signifying the union and identification of the offerer with the offering; our fellowship with Christ is a matter of identification, a matter of us becoming Him and of Him becoming us.**

**B. The peace offering is illustrated in Luke 15:23-24 by the fattened calf as a peaceful enjoyment between the receiving father, God, and the returning prodigal son, a sinner.**

**C. We need to learn the secret of enjoying Christ as our peace offering—the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding:**

**1.** We must learn the secret of how to take Christ as life, how to live Christ, how to magnify Christ, and how to gain Christ in any environment and in any matter:

**a.** We need to let our requests be made known to God, talking with Him and conferring with Him in everything.

**b.** “Those who do not know this secret consider to live Christ a difficult thing. Actually, you just need to practice speaking with the Lord constantly; then spontaneously, you will live Christ”.

**c.** The result of practicing fellowship with God in prayer is that the peace of God, God as peace, is infused into us for our enjoyment as the counterpoise to troubles and the antidote to anxiety so that Christ as our forbearance can be known to all men:

**(1)** Through our fellowship with God in prayer, we enjoy the Lord as a river of peace and as a comforting mother.

**(2)** Through our fellowship with God in prayer, we enjoy the Lord as a refuge from the wind, a covering from the tempest, streams of water in a dry place, and the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land.

**2.** The virtues of Christ for our experience in Philippians 4:5-9 are the expression of a life that lives Christ as peace:

**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.

**I. The issue of enjoying Christ as our burnt offering, our meal offering, our sin offering, and our trespass offering is the enjoyment of Christ as the peace offering:**

**A. We should not try to have peace by our own effort; the more we try in ourselves to have peace, the less peace we will have; the only way to have peace is to enjoy Christ every day.**

**B. Having peace is a measurement to show us to what degree we enjoy Christ.**

**C. We should enjoy Christ today and forget about yesterday and about tomorrow.]**

**3.** “Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near” (Phil 4:5):

**a.** 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.

**b.** According to Christian experience, forbearance is all-inclusive, for it includes all Christian virtues: **(1)** Forbearance includes love, patience, kindness, humility, compassion, considerateness, and submissiveness, a willingness to yield; if we have such an all-inclusive virtue, we shall also have righteousness and holiness.]

**(2)** 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.

**c.** A forbearing person is one who always fits in, whose behavior is always suitable. **d.** If we are forbearing, we shall have the wisdom and the ability to supply others with what they need; we shall also have the full knowledge of what to say to them and when to say it. **e.** To be forbearing is to consider how others will be affected by what we do or say.

**f.** As an all-inclusive virtue, forbearance is Christ Himself; since Christ is forbearance, for Paul to live was forbearance: **(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. **(3)** To make known our forbearance is to live a life that expresses Christ as the totality of all human virtues.]

**g.** Immediately after speaking about forbearance, Paul says that the Lord is near: **(1)** With respect to space, the Lord is near us, ready to help; with regard to time, the Lord is at hand, coming soon. **(2)** The Lord's being near refers primarily to His presence with us.

**4.** “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. 4:6-7):

**a.** The words in everything refer to the many different things that happen to us day by day. **b.** 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. **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.” **d.** The God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil; a proper Christian life is a life of calm, tranquility, peace, and quiet; the first aspect of a life that lives Christ is tranquility—without rivalry, vainglory, murmurings, or reasonings and without debate, arguing, or fighting with others.

**e.** Let your forbearance be known is parallel to let your requests be made known (Phil. 4:5-6):

**(1)** Our anxiety can be turned into forbearance by bringing every need, every request, to God, and by conversing with Him; we should just tell Him what we need; that is, if we have any worry or anxiety, we should just tell Him. **(2)** Our letting Him know is our motion toward Him; then His response is His dispensing, His mingling Himself with us, even before He answers our request; the practical mingling of divinity with humanity is carried out by the traffic described in verse 6.

**f.** 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.]

III. We need to learn the secret of how to have the vital-group church life as a house of feasting—a feast of Christ as the peace offering—where He and His lovers can have rest and satisfaction:

- A. This church life is produced by the resurrection life.
- B. This church life is composed of cleansed sinners.
- C. This church life is outwardly poor and afflicted.
- D. This church life is a life of feasting in and with the presence of the Lord.
- E. This church life has more sisters than brothers.
- F. In this church life there are the functions of Martha (diligently serving the Lord), Lazarus (testifying of the resurrection life), and Mary (pouring out her absolute love on the Lord).

IV. Our enjoyment of Christ as our peace offering in our daily life and in the church life consummates in the New Jerusalem as the ultimate peace offering:

- A. Jerusalem means “the foundation of peace.”
- B. The New Jerusalem is the Triune God to be our peace, to be our safety.
- C. The whole New Jerusalem will be an entity of peace.

Day 1 *Lev. 3:1* And if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he presents it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall present it without blemish before Jehovah. 2 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood on and around the altar.

Day 2 *Lev. 3:8* And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.

*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.

Day 3 *Isa. 66:12* . . . I now am extending to her Peace like a river, And the glory of the nations Like an overflowing stream; And you will nurse, you will be carried on the hip, And you will be bounced on the knees. 13 As one whom his mother comforts, So will I comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

*Isa. 32:2* And a man will be like a refuge from the wind And a covering from the tempest, Like streams of water in a dry place, Like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land

Day 4 *Phil. 4:5* Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.

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.

Day 5 *Phil. 4:5* . . . The Lord is near. 6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

*Col. 3:15* And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Day 6 *John 12:2* . . . they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus . . . and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.

*John 20:19* When therefore it was evening on that day, . . . Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, Peace be to you.

«Composition for prophecy»

Experience ①: Experiencing burnt offering and meal offering to experience Christ as peace

In Leviticus the offerings are in a particular sequence. First we have the burnt offering and then the meal offering and then the peace offering. The burnt offering signifies that we must be absolutely for God, and the meal offering indicates that Christ is our daily food. When we are absolutely for God and live by feeding on Christ, the result is peace. We have peace with God and with one another. This means that when Christ satisfies us, He becomes the peace between us and God. Today we are in this peace, which is Christ.

When we get out of Christ, we have no peace. If we are short of peace, we are short of Christ. The amount of peace we have depends on how much of Christ we have. Having peace is a measurement to show us to what degree we enjoy Christ.

There is no reason for the church people not to have peace. We should not try to have peace by our own effort. The more we try in ourselves to have peace, the less peace we will have. The only way to have peace is to enjoy Christ every day. In the morning we should take Christ as our burnt offering and offer Him to satisfy God. Then we should take Him as our daily food to meet that day's particular need.

We should enjoy Christ today and forget about yesterday and about tomorrow. Yesterday is gone, and we are not in tomorrow. Since yesterday is gone, none of us can remain in it. Whether we were a failure or a success yesterday, yesterday is passed. As Christians we do not have tomorrow; we only have today. Do not bother about tomorrow—live today! What do we have today? We have Christ. Christ is today.

#### For Junior/Senior High School Students

The most important thing for you as a junior/senior high school student is to study. In order to concentrate on your study, you need to have a peace in your heart. If you have a problem in the relationship with your classmates or teachers, you become mentally unbalanced so you cannot concentrate on your study. But thank the Lord. The privileges of Christians are to rejoice in the Lord always and to have peace in the Lord in any situations. You should know you do not have peace outside of the Lord but you can have peace in the Lord, since Christ Himself is your real peace. You can have peace in the Lord even when your heart become weary during your study for the college entrance exam.

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.

In order to experience Christ as peace, first of all, give your college entrance exam to the Lord. People in the world study for themselves. But you should study for the Lord, and prepare for college entrance exam for the testimony of the Lord. And then you should give yourself and your study for college entrance exam to the Lord. After that, pray-read the words and eat Christ. At the same time, you should confess your unbelief, offenses and weakness that are enlightened in the light of the word. For example, when you read John 16:33, you do not believe the fact the Lord has overcome Satan and the world so you become apart from the Lord and be nervous. But while you are pray-reading this word, you heard a voice from the Lord saying, "You of little faith, why don't you become simple to believe my word?" A crucial thing for you in such case is to confess your unbelief and weakness immediately to the Lord.

In this way, you can experience Christ as burnt offering, meal offering, and trespass offering, and then as a result, you can enter into the peace of Christ. The peace in the Lord can not be swayed by outside circumstances, so it can calm you down during your study for college entrance exam. May you be able to concentrate on the study for college entrance exam in peace by experiencing Christ as peace offering. Amen!

Experience ②: Let your requests be made known to God, and be guarded by the peace of God

In Philippians 4:6 Paul goes on to say, "In nothing be anxious." Often when we hear bad news, we worry and fall into anxiety. Anxiety undermines the living of Christ. Instead of being anxious, in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving we should make our requests known to God. Then the peace of God will guard our hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus. The peace of God saves us from worry and anxiety.

In verse 6 Paul charges us "in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The words in everything refer to the many different things which happen to us day by day. Under the Lord's blessing, many positive things happen, and we hear good news. However, we also experience negative things and hear bad news. Nevertheless, in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, we should make our requests known to God. Prayer is general with the essence of worship and fellowship; petition is special for particular needs. Notice that Paul says "with thanksgiving," not "and thanksgiving." This indicates that both our prayer and petition should be accompanied by thanksgiving to the Lord. The Greek word rendered "guard" [in verse 7] may also be rendered "mount guard over." The God of peace patrols or stands guard before our hearts and thoughts in Christ. The heart is the source, and the thoughts are the issue. The peace of God guards both our hearts and our thoughts.

#### For young working saints

Phil. 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

As a business person, difficulties are there for you always. Because of this, many people suffer from stomach aches or depression. However, thank the Lord for we have the blessing of Philippians 4: 6 and 7. You need to apply this blessing of the Word to your actual business life. Otherwise you will become like a person who does not know how to withdraw a huge sum of bank deposits and spend a poor life. From a spiritual point of view, are you not such a foolish person? This example shows that you should be blessed by applying the truth in the Word to your real life instead of pursuing the Word as a doctrine.

To apply the Word to real life, you need to speak to God first. At that time, there is no need to modify or try to make a good appearance before the Lord. Just let your request be made known to God. You can pray like this, "Lord Jesus, I do not know how to solve a certain problem in the business, and I am going to be crushed in my anxiety. But thank You Lord, I call on Your name. I will forget about my various worries that I might get fired due to my failure, I want to experience You in my work. Up to now I have fallen into unbelief and have become Satan's prey. I do not want to stay in such a miserable situation anymore....O Lord Jesus, please save me, and let me experience the peace in my suffering."

By speaking to the Lord like this, the peace of God will guard your heart and thought. Psychological strength (spiritual strength) is necessary for a business person not to be crushed by the hardship. Brother Lee, like Paul, spoke the truth with straightforwardness and received much persecution from the traditional religion. However, he testified that he was able to sleep in the Lord within the bullets flying about. You also shall be guarded in the Lord by the peace of God, enjoy peace and be able to go through business life with spiritual strength. Hallelujah!

### 信仰のストーリー

1. ここに来て、イエスのこと  
はじめて聞いたとき、  
言い知れぬ へいあんが  
あたたかく ながれた。  
くるしみを もはやわすれ  
世ぞくから かい放された。  
かれらのかおをみて知る、  
たしかに かみ居る。
2. かれら言う、かみはわが  
すくい、いのちとなる。  
見たことも ないけれど  
いち度ためしてみよう。  
こころから かれに向かい  
「おお 主イエス！」とさけびもとむ。  
たぐいなき あまき名を  
はじめて あじわう。
3. かい放され、あんそく得、  
つみのがれ 義とされ、  
主にけつ合、主はいのち、  
かみに向かって 生きる。  
主のなかで栄光、自由あり、  
新そうぞう 主とわれいち。  
これぞわが 信仰のストーリー  
たえなる あいとうた！

### 信的故事

1. 初次来这里，听他们在说  
耶稣的事迹，未曾闻过，  
但在我心坎 有新的感受，  
莫名的平安 像股暖流；  
我几乎忘记 来前的苦恼，  
不觉已脱离 俗世的囚牢。  
从他们脸上 表露的纯真，  
我心暗想： 真的有神！
2. 他們且告訴，神要進我裡，  
作生命、救主，若我願意，  
我眼未看到，對祂又不知，  
只覺得需要，不妨一試；  
我就從深處 真心轉向祂，  
喊哦，主耶穌！求祂來救拔。  
從無一名字 如此甘又美  
我享真實， 今仍回味！
3. 脫一身纏累，進入真安息，  
不再有定罪，蒙神稱義，  
我與主聯合，祂是我生命，  
今向神活著，因信得生；  
我在基督裡 榮耀又逍遙，  
我與祂是一，成為神新造。  
哦，這個就是 我信的故事，  
美妙之至， 是愛是詩！

### The Story of Faith

1. When first I came here, they spoke of Jesus,  
Such things I never had heard before,  
But in my heart was a new sensation,  
Past explanation, such peace and warmth.  
My former troubles, all but forgotten,  
I left the bondage of earth unconsciously.  
I saw their faces, so pure and gen'uine,  
My heart said, "Truly God is here!"
2. They said God wanted to get inside me,  
My life, my Savior, if I'd allow;  
I'd never seen Him, I'd never known Him,  
I only knew this: "I need Him now!"  
So with a pure heart I turned my being,  
Called, "O, Lord Jesus!" Asked Him to save me.  
No other name is so sweet, so lovely;  
From that day forth, so real to me!
3. No more encumb'rance, true rest I enter,  
No condemnation, I'm justified,  
Joined to the Savior, my life forever,  
I live to God now, by faith have life;  
In Christ I glory, in Christ rejoicing,  
I'm one with Him, as a new creation,  
This is the story of my salvation,  
Such wond'rous love, such wond'rous song!