



Brand New WHATEVER

#npbrandnew

Week 4
4 of 4

February 23, 2020

Bottom Line: Proactive is the key.

Icebreaker: Is there any food that has to be a brand name for you? If so, what? Are you a “coffee snob”? Favorite brand of car? Restaurant? What area of life do you have something that only one brand will do?

Key Verse: *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!* Philippians 4:4 TLB

Paul loves his friends, and he wants life to be brand new for them. Because of that, he is deeply concerned for the stability of this congregation. Spiritual instability is a disqualifier for many things. Spiritual instability is a disappointment to everyone. He affirms to them and to us that we have the ability to stand firm in Christ and have a stable life of rejoicing. We all start as unstable persons, but if we can discipline ourselves to work the process, invest the time, and solve the problems with God, we will find ourselves becoming strong. The disciplined life is the stable life.

Paul affirms that this is the direction we can go, then elaborates with the principles of a stable and satisfied life.

CULTIVATE PEACE. Pursue harmony. **MAINTAIN JOY.** Instead of being victimized by my circumstances, I live in a spirit of joy because I deliberately remind myself that God is present and sovereign over everything. Nothing happens out of His control – HE controls it all, absolutely all of it. God is loving, God is wise, God has an infinite understanding of every aspect of life. It's a whole different approach to understand that. **EMBRACE HUMILITY.** Stability moves forward when I learn to accept less than I think I am due. You don't demand your rights. Your stability and identity come from the Lord. **DEVELOP YOUR FAITH.** Instability comes from a lack of trust. When your trust in God grows, your instability and insecurity diminish. When we don't trust God, we are unstable because we don't trust Him to work in conjunction with His character. **CHOOSE GRATITUDE.** It's the healthiest emotion. It leads to peace. **THINK RIGHT.** You must take charge of the way you think. **OBEY THE STANDARD.** Make God's standard your way of life. It is transforming. **GROW A NEW GENEROSITY.** When we learn to be content it enables us to have a loose grip on the material and give generously to others and engage in the mission.

That describes a Jesus follower who is more than adequate for the challenges of life. That person is always full of the joy of the Lord and is a stable presence in a quaking world.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

The group at Philippi was a church, just a plain old church like every other church, and there were all levels of spiritual stability, all levels of spiritual strength. How do the varying levels of stability in a congregation add struggle? How do they make us essential to each other?

Genetics has nothing to do with spiritual resources. Your basic instability is not something you inherited. It's a spiritual issue. Reflect and respond. Do you believe this? Why or why not?

The disciplined life is the stable life. How have you found this to be true or the opposite to be true in your own life?

How are you personally and practically working the process, investing the time, and solving the problems? How do you think you could improve your stability by improving your discipline?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Paul mentions eight principles in the path to a stable and joyful life for every Jesus follower. What comes most naturally to you? Where do you think you have grown most since becoming a Christ-follower? Where do you still need to develop?

What most impacts your trust in God, positively and negatively?

Rate your spiritual discipline 1-10, with 1 being extremely low and 10 being extremely high. Why did you choose that number?

What has been the most impactful lesson you have learned from Paul in Philippians that you can put into practice the rest of your life?

NEXT STEPS

1. Attend DISCOVER Track.
2. Begin to serve and tithe.
3. Work and pray toward unity.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Proactive is the key.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Colossians 2:5-7

Tuesday: Philippians 4:2-3

Wednesday: Philippians 4:

Thursday: Philippians 4:8

Friday: Philippians 4:9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)