



**Crisis Management: Phil 4:6a: Stop Worrying & Start Praying: Protocol of Prayer; The Prayer Network: Our Prayers & God's Answers Are in the Divine Decrees**

**D. Philippians 4:6:**

1. The verse begins with the present active imperative of the verb:

**μεριμνάω, merimnaō -** anxiety; fear; worry; to be distracted by circumstances.

present:	Customary for habitual or continuous action in present time.
active:	The believer is commanded not to produce the action of this verb.
imperative:	Prohibition to avoid this sin.

2. The negative aspect of the mandate is found in the word: **μηδείς, mēdeis -**  
“nothing”

Literal translation: “Be anxious about nothing,”  
Translation: **“Stop worrying habitually about anything.”**

3. Here we find a prohibition against anxiety. A sin that dwells on an issue and can't either resolve it or turn it loose. It leads first of all to either brooding or speculating.
4. Brooding is to dwell moodily about an issue to the point of depression. Speculation involves habitual review of an issue but always inconclusively. These are forms of worry, a mental distress resulting from concern over something impending or anticipated.
5. Worry therefore centers on circumstances or issues about which you have incomplete facts which cause you to anticipate negative ramifications about which you have no immediate solution.
6. However, problems you have identified and realize you cannot solve must be turned over to the Lord under faith-rest. This is the only way to maintain balance and serenity while engaging in the scrum of the angelic conflict.
7. Principles:
- (1) Worry is a mental attitude sin which neutralizes the divine operating assets beginning with the loss of the Spirit-filled life.
  - (2) Worry short-circuits the function of the faith-rest drill, enters the believer into carnality, and will spiral into reversionism if not corrected.
  - (3) Correction of worry involves more than rebound although this is the obvious place to start. However, if afterward the believer does not then claim promises to stabilize his soul he will be unable to access doctrinal solutions since doctrinal recall is soon canceled by renewed worry.
  - (4) Worry thus becomes a weapon utilized by Lucifer to take over the believer's soul and to introduce human viewpoint solutions to the problem.
  - (5) All believers are potential targets for the simultaneous assaults of worry and satanic influence, thus the importance of consistent Bible study in order to increase the power of doctrinal thought in the soul.
  - (6) There is never a status quo in the spiritual life. The believer either advances or retreats in the Invisible War thus confirming the Latin axiom: *qui non proficit deficit*, he who does not advance, falls behind.
  - (7) Paul begins this verse with the mandate not to worry since this sin is so efficient in making the faith-rest drill unavailable by keeping the believer out of fellowship.
  - (8) If the believer cannot function under the faith-rest drill then his prayer life is shut down.
  - (9) It is faith-rest that makes your prayers effective since effective prayer demands faith in the power of God to answer it.



8. Next comes the divine alternative to worry, introduced by the conjunction:

**ἀλλά, *alla* - “but”**

This is a conjunction of strong contrast between what is mentioned before it—“worry,” and what is mentioned afterward—“prayer.”

9. This verse gives us an idea of how to recover not only from sin but also the mechanics. Rebound is obviously implied by the conjunction *alla*. You can’t stop worrying, which is a sin, and then start praying, which requires the filling of the Holy Spirit, unless you rebound first.

10. Next we are told how to pray, introduced by the prepositional phrase:

**ἐν πάς, *en pas* - “in every”**

When you find the preposition *en* without a noun following, then the adjective *pas* means “**in every circumstance.**”

11. What follows are two nouns, each preceded by a definite article:

**τῇ, *tēi* -** These are not translated but linked with the two nouns that follow it combines “in every circumstance” with “prayer and supplication.” Prayer comes first—the instrumental of means from the noun:

**προσευχή, *proseuchē* - “by means of prayer”**

Prayer may be described as an Instantaneous Extradimensional Communications Network. It transcends time and space and enters into the eternal state at the moment it is thought or spoken.

12. In the New Testament, this word is always associated with prayer with emphasis on the act of addressing God. It is also the preferred usage if the act of prayer is indicated but not its content. Therefore, in this context, it refers to a system for prayer.
13. Prayers are to be expressed to the Father (Matthew 6:9), in the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18), in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14 -15), and in the name of Jesus Christ (John 14:13-14).
14. Proper prayer can have several categories which are implied next by the second instrumental of means, the noun:

**δέσις, *deēsis* -** The best English translation is “**entreaty**” and means “to make an earnest request.”

This word can mean “petition” for personal needs or for requests in general which would include “intercession” for others.

15. All requests are to be submitted through the divinely constituted system of prayer. Properly submitted prayers are answered in the divine decree.
16. In eternity past God knew all that was knowable, the potential as well as the actual. The actual included His knowledge of every thought, decision, and action that His omniscience perceived would take place in human history.
17. These thoughts, decisions, and actions of every believer were programmed into the divine decree. This category of divine omniscience is called foreknowledge and can be illustrated by imagining the divine decree as a giant computer into which God has inserted this data. We may further illustrate this by imagining that when God inserted the data He programmed it onto a PROM chip:



Pfaffenberger, Bryan. *Webster's New World Computer Dictionary*. 9th ed. (New York: Hungry Minds, 2001), 300:

**PROM.** Acronym for programmable read-only memory. PROM chips can be programmed just once, after which the programming becomes permanent.

Thus the PROM chip illustrates human free will programmed once by the believer's volition and since it is foreknown it cannot be rewritten.

18. Consequently, God perceived your prayer in eternity past and placed it into the divine decree on your PROM chip.

**Isaiah 65:24** - "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."

19. God also processed our prayers in eternity past, and if we submit them according to His will, He will answer them:

**1 John 5:14-** And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

**v. 15** - And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask [**1CC: and He does**], we know that we have the request which we have asked from Him."

20. God inserted His answer into the divine decrees in a similar way that a computer saves data on a ROM chip:

Pfaffenberger, *Webster's Computer Dictionary*, 311:

**Read-only memory (ROM).** A ROM chip contains essential system programs that neither the user nor the computer can erase.

Thus the ROM chip illustrates the sovereignty of God and the immutability of His decisions.

21. Here then is how prayer works:

- (1) You express a prayer to God utilizing the biblical system we are developing: (1) to the Father; (2) under the power of the Holy Spirit, followed by (3) thanksgiving to God; (4) intercession for others; (5) petition for self; and (6) in the name of Christ.
- (2) This prayer is a collection of thoughts decisions and actions perceived in eternity past by the omniscience of God. Before you prayed it, God answered it (Isaiah 65:24a).
- (3) First, He recognized the prayer by programming it into your PROM chip. He knew you would pray it because omniscience can perceive what will happen in the future with the same clarity as we can the past.
- (4) Because you prayed in accordance with His will, God is obligated under His promise in 1 John 5:14-15 to answer it and the details of His answer are inserted into the divine decrees into the ROM chip.
- (5) God's timing is perfect. He has so arranged human history that the answer to your prayer is as much a part of history as the prayer you pray.
- (6) When you pray the prayer the answer is in the divine decree awaiting its perfect point in time to become a reality for you: "while they are still speaking, I will hear (Isaiah 65:24b)."