A silhouette of a person in a prayerful pose, with their head bowed and hands clasped, is visible on the left side of the image. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise sky. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Rejoice in the Lord Always: The Lord Is Near!

Philippians 4:4-7

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Main Point

Because the Lord is near,
we can rejoice in all circumstances
and stand courageously and
calmly against the world,
entrusting ourselves into His care.

Rejoice! The Lord is Near.
Rejoice in the Lord always.





Rejoice *in the Lord.*

Philippians 4:7

**Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice!**

Philippians 4:7

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, rejoice!

The Lord is the *object of* and
the *reason for* our rejoicing.

Psalm 35:9

And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;
It shall exult in His salvation.

He is the object of our rejoicing

Psalm 35:9

And **my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;**

It shall exult in His salvation.

He is the reason for our rejoicing

Psalm 35:9

And **my soul** shall rejoice in the LORD;

it **shall exult in His salvation.**

Rejoice in the Lord.

Rejoice in *all* circumstances.

Philippians 4:7

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4:7

Rejoice in the Lord **always**;
again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4:7

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, rejoice!

Paul was writing from prison to a people being harassed and persecuted for their faith, encouraging them to take hold of the joy found in the Lord.

Philippians 1:27-30

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents — which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Philippians 1:27-30

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

**in no way alarmed by your
opponents** — which is a sign

of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

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from God. **For to you it has been granted** for Christ's sake,
not only to believe in Him, but also **to suffer for His sake**,
experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me,
and now hear to be in me.

Philippians 1:27-30

Only **conduct yourselves in a manner
worthy of the gospel**

of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent,
I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit,
with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
in no way alarmed by your opponents — which is a sign
of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too,
from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake,
not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me,
and now hear to be in me.

Psalm 35:1

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
Fight against those who fight against me.

Psalm 35:1 and 9-10

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
Fight against those who fight against me.

And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;
It shall exult in His salvation.

Psalm 35:1 and 9-10

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
Fight against those who fight against me.

And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;
It shall exult in His salvation.

All my bones will say, “LORD, who is like You,
Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him,
And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?”

Rejoice! The Lord is Near.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Stand *courageously* against the world.





Stand courageously against the world.

Let your gentleness
be known to all.

Philippians 4:8

Let your gentle spirit be known to all men.
The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:8

Let your gentle *spirit* **be known** to all men.

The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:8

Let your **gentle** *spirit* **be known** to all men.

The Lord is near.

Meekness, forbearance, gentleness,
especially with respect to enemies.

2 Corinthians 10:1

Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness
and **gentleness** of Christ...

This gentleness or forbearance
is an exercise of personal restraint
that comes from the strength
of great courage.

Philippians 4:8

Let your gentle *spirit* **be known** to all men.

The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:8

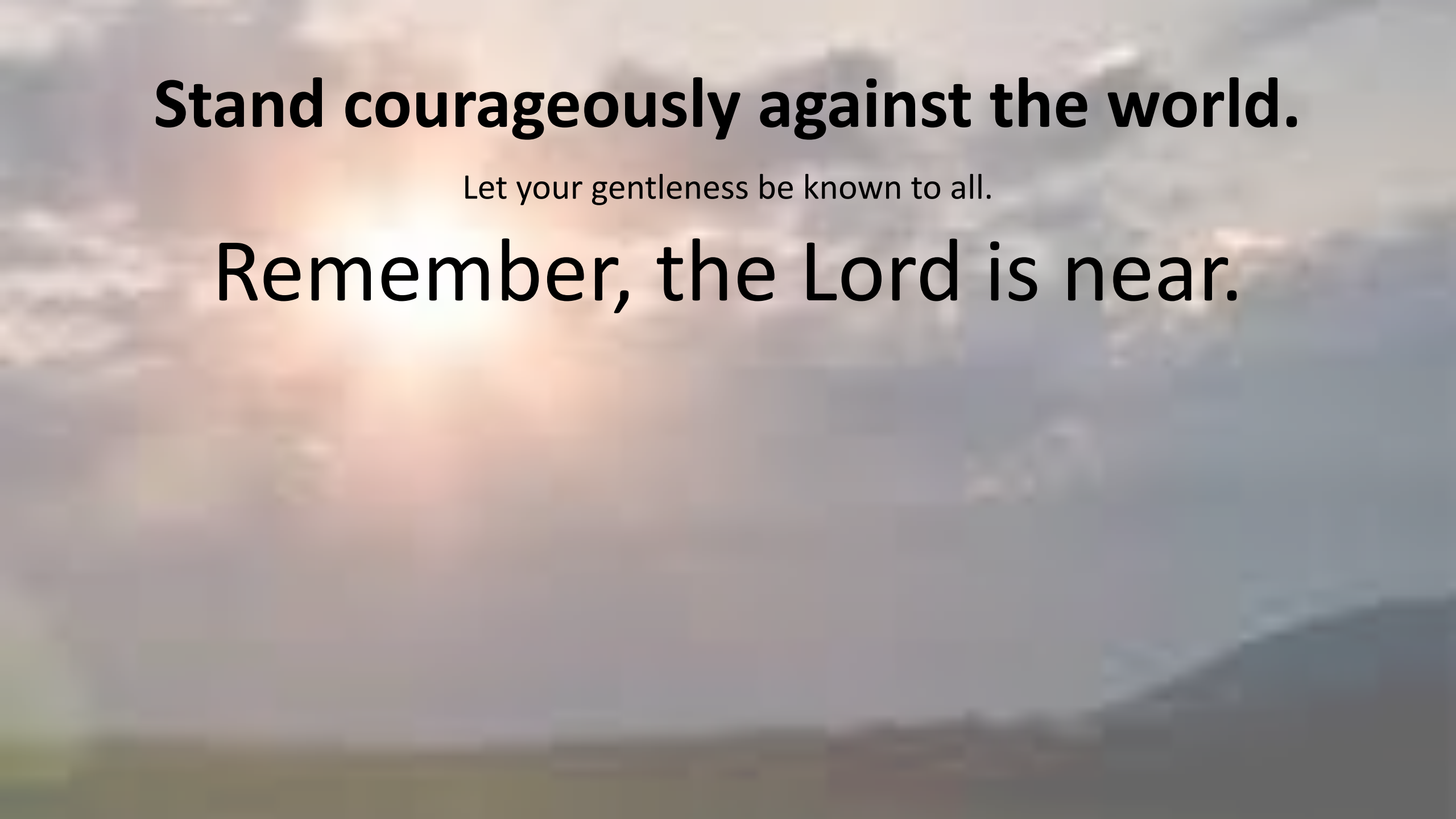
Let your gentle *spirit* be known **to all men.**

The Lord is near.

**Even to those who are harassing
and persecuting you!**

This response of gentleness
testifies to the power of the gospel
and demonstrates great faith.

But what will give us the hope needed
to courageously stand firm?



Stand courageously against the world.

Let your gentleness be known to all.

Remember, the Lord is near.

Philippians 4:8

Let your gentleness be known to all men.

The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:8

Let your gentleness be known to all men.

The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:8

Let your gentleness be known to all men.

The Lord is near.

This nearness could refer to the closeness of the Lord to us now or to the nearness of His return.

Precedence for both...

Psalm 145:18

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.

Isaiah 13:6

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Context of Paul's letter...

Philippians 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until **the day of Christ Jesus**.

Philippians 2:16

...so that **in the day of Christ** I will have reason to glory...

Philippians 3:30

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also **we eagerly wait for a Savior**, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:5

Let your gentleness be known to all men.
The Lord is near.

James makes a similar appeal...

James 5:8

You too be patient; strengthen your hearts,
for the coming of the Lord is near.

Paul was likely pointing them primarily to the nearness of Christ's return but left the meaning ambiguous because both are true, and both are comforting and empowering.

Rejoice! The Lord is Near.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Stand courageously against the world.

Stand *calmly* in the world.



The background of the image is a soft-focus landscape during a sunset or sunrise. The sun is positioned in the upper left quadrant, creating a bright, hazy glow that diffuses across the sky. The sky transitions from a pale yellow near the sun to a light blue-grey at the top. Below the sky, there are silhouettes of rolling hills or mountains, and a body of water is visible in the lower right corner, reflecting the ambient light. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

**Stand calmly in the world.
Don't worry about anything.**

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Worry causes anxiety, but not
all anxiety is caused by worry.

We are commanded *to stop worrying*.

To worry is to nurse thoughts or imaginations about uncertainties that you perceive as threats.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry **about anything**, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry **about anything**, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Because we are skilled at carving
out categories for acceptable worry,
Paul emphasizes *nothing*.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, **but in everything**

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6



Stand calmly in the world.

Don't worry about anything.

Pray about everything.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, **but in everything**

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but **in everything**
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

**let your requests be made
known to God.**

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything

by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving**

let your requests be made known to God.

Wage the battle against worry,
and the anxiety that comes with it,
by drawing near to the Lord in thankful
prayer, believing that *He is near*.

By faith, you can stand calmly
in a world set against you.

Rejoice! The Lord is Near.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Stand courageously against the world.

Stand calmly in the world.

Entrust yourself into God's care.





Entrust yourself into God's care.

His peace will guard you.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And **the peace of God, which surpasses
all comprehension,**

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What is this incomprehensible peace?

It is commonly understood that Paul is referring to an experience of inner calm or tranquility that defies explanation.

But is this what will guard our hearts and minds when the heat gets turned up?

Philippians 4:7

And **the peace of God, which surpasses
all comprehension,**

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,

**will guard your hearts
and your minds** in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And **God's peace**, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And **God's peace**, which surpasses all comprehension,

will guard your hearts

and your minds in Christ Jesus.

That is, the whole you – your thoughts,
emotions, and your will.

God's peace is the working out of His shalom among His people; it is His peace that He gives through Christ.

It is the working out of His gospel that results in the *objective* realities of our justification and peace with God through Christ.

It is this peace that guards us!

Philippians 4:7

And **God's peace**, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And **God's peace**, which surpasses all comprehension,
**will guard your hearts
and your minds** in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in one body;
and be thankful.

Philippians 4:7

And **God's peace**, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15

Let **the peace of Christ** rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in one body;
and be thankful.

Philippians 4:7

And **God's peace**, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15

Let **Christ's peace** rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in one body;
and be thankful.

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; **My peace I give to you;**
not as the world gives do I give to you.
Do not let your heart be troubled,
nor let it be fearful.”

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give to you.

Do not let your heart be troubled,
nor let it be fearful.”

You may experience incomprehensible calm,
but this is a byproduct of the peace that
guards you, not the substance of it.

The peace that will guard you is God's
peace promised to you in the gospel
and taken hold of by faith.



Entrust yourself into God's care.

His peace will guard you.

Christ will keep you.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,

will guard your hearts and your minds **in Christ Jesus.**

Ultimately you will be protected
because you have been united to Christ.

And Christ will not fail to keep you!

Conclusion

Do you believe that it is possible to rejoice in the Lord in every circumstance?

Do you believe it is possible to stand courageously and calmly in a world that is against you?

Are you entrusting yourself into the Lord's care by prayer?