

SERMON & DEVOTIONAL OUTLINE

November 2, 2025

Entrusted, Part 5: “Asking for a Friend”

Text: Philippians 4:1-3 NIV

MAIN TEXT

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel

1 — GOOD FRIENDS STAND FIRM TOGETHER

Philippians 4:1

“Stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.”

- Paul calls the Philippians his *joy and crown* — that’s friendship language of deep affection and mutual strength.
- Healthy relationships anchor us when life shakes us.

Cross References:

- *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10* — “Two are better than one...”
- *Proverbs 17:17* — “A friend loves at all times...”

Application:

- Be the friend who helps others *stand firm*, not fall apart.
 - Strengthen others’ faith when life tests theirs.
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2 — GOOD FRIENDS SEEK RECONCILIATION, NOT RIVALRY

Philippians 4:2-3

“I plead with Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord...”

- Paul doesn’t ignore conflict — he steps in to restore.
- Unity in Christ is worth fighting for; relationships break when pride wins.

Cross References:

- *Matthew 5:9* — “Blessed are the peacemakers...”
- *Colossians 3:13* — “Bear with each other and forgive...”

Application:

- Be quick to reconcile and slow to take sides.
 - Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is *apologize first*.
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3 — GOOD FRIENDS SHARE PURPOSE, NOT PLATFORM

Philippians 4:3

“...they contended at my side in the cause of the gospel.”

- The glue of godly friendship is shared mission, not mutual convenience.
- True friends push you toward purpose, not just pleasure.

Cross References:

- *Amos 3:3* — “Can two walk together unless they agree?”
- *John 15:15* — “I have called you friends...”

Application:

- Ask: *Are my friendships helping me fulfill my calling or distracting me from it?*
 - Build relationships around purpose, not popularity.
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POINT 4 — GOOD FRIENDS REJOICE TOGETHER

Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

- Joy multiplies in godly community; isolation drains it.
- Rejoicing with others builds unity and kills jealousy.

Cross References:

- *Romans 12:15* — “Rejoice with those who rejoice...”
- *Psalms 133:1* — “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

Application:

- Celebrate your friends’ blessings as if they were your own.
- Be the reason someone remembers that friendship with believers is refreshing.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: “Friendship Stewardship”

Day 1 — “Recognize the Gift” (Philippians 4:1)

Reflect: Who are the people God has entrusted to me right now?

Action: Send a message of gratitude or encouragement to one of them today.

Day 2 — “Reconcile Quickly” (Philippians 4:2–3)

Reflect: Is there tension or offense I’ve been avoiding?

Action: Pray for humility to take the first step toward peace.

Day 3 — “Refocus Your Purpose” (Philippians 4:3)

Reflect: Which relationships bring out God’s purpose in my life?
Which distract from it?

Action: Invest more time in purpose-driven friendships this week.

Day 4 — “Rejoice Together” (Philippians 4:4)

Reflect: How can I celebrate others’ blessings with sincerity?

Action: Encourage or publicly celebrate a friend’s win this week.

Day 5 — “Remember the Source” (John 15:15)

Reflect: Jesus calls you *friend*. How does His friendship shape how you treat others?

Action: Spend quiet time thanking Him for His faithfulness and asking to love people like He does.

CLOSING CHALLENGE

You’ve been *entrusted* with more than resources—you’ve been entrusted with *relationships*.

This week, choose to:

- ✓ Be intentional with your friendships.
- ✓ Be kind when it’s inconvenient.
- ✓ Be faithful with the people God placed in your life.

Because one day, God won’t just ask what you did with your *talents* — He’ll ask what you did with your *people*.