

Heavenly Citizens and Their Difficulties – Philippians 4:4-7

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Paul makes clear in 4:1 that because of our heavenly citizenship we should stand in the Lord. Not only does this statement look back to the text preceding but forward as well. That is, *so stand* anticipates vv. 2-9 where Paul gives concrete ways of standing fast in the Lord. In vv. 2-3 Paul admonishes the Philippians with respect to their unity in the Lord. Verses 8-9 address the believer's mind and the importance of following Paul's example. Our focus this morning will be on vv. 4-7, where Paul addresses our inner life in the midst of difficulties. Stemming from the heavenly citizenship (3:20), our passage offers three ways Christians stand fast in the faith amidst life's difficulties:

1. Heavenly citizens rejoice in the Lord always (v. 4).
2. Heavenly citizens are gentle with all (v. 5).
3. Heavenly citizens pray in everything (vv. 6-7).