



Geebung Wavell Heights Uniting Church

17th November 2024
Our Mission Statement

*“Sharing the love of Jesus together
in welcoming all people into the
fellowship of the church as well as
ministering to the community”*

Is Anxiety a Sin? (Part 2 or 2)

This overall “Now and Not Yet” framework is critical to understanding why Philippians 4:6 should not be wielded as a clobber verse that defines anxiety as a sin.

Anxiety is an intrinsic and unavoidable feature of our Now and Not Yet incompleteness and should not be conflated with moral failure. Incompleteness is not the same as sin.

We would be mistaken if we morally blamed an eight-year-old for being small or not knowing calculus... or for being racked with worry about their parents coming home.

In Paul’s letters, he is not shy about calling out actions rightly labelled as sin and disobedience. But he’s not using such moral categories in Philippians 3 and 4. For instance, the encouragement right before 4:6 is to - *celebrate joyfully in the Lord, all the time.* — 4:4 NTE

But no one actually stays at this elevated spiritual state “all the time.” We all regularly slip back down into more “lowly” moods.

Continual celebration is an aspirational description of the final transformation of our emotional self. While Christians are invited to taste more and more of those celebratory emotions here and now, I do not fall into sin when I stop celebrating joyfully in the Lord and, for example, lament the awful pitching of the Chicago Cubs. Paul describes periods when he is decidedly not in a celebratory mood but is instead struggling with deep despair (see 2 Corinthians 1:8, for example). He never labels those negative emotional experiences as sin.

Similarly, the encouragement right after Philippians 4:6 is to think only about holy, upright, virtuous things (4:8 NTE). Again, our minds will one day be transformed by the resurrection so we’ll be able to accomplish this constant mental focus. In the meantime, we only sometimes experience periods of such a pure mindset, though we should aspire to have more of it.

When our minds wander to, say, the latest celebrity gossip news, we have not committed wrong. Paul reveals how his own mind occasionally wanders to some fairly uncharitable (and crass) thoughts about his enemies. Galatians 5:12 includes some trash talking that would make a National Basketball Association player blush. Paul seems to accept these thoughts as part of his life in the Now.

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For your Diary

Weekly Activities -

Tuesday Indoor Bowls 1:30pm @ Wavell
Saturday Youth Alive
Sunday Worship Service 9am
See below for locations

Special Events & Services — November

Sunday November 17th Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Wednesday November 20th Adult Fellowship
@ Geebung 1:30pm Christmas Focus

Sunday November 24th Combined 9am Service
@ Wavell

Friday November 29th South Pacific Dinner
@ Geebung from 6:30pm

Special Events & Services — December

Sunday December 1st Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Tuesday December 3rd Church Council 6:30pm
@ Wavell

Sunday December 8th Combined 9am Service
@ Wavell
**7 pm Carols in the Carpark @
Geebung**

Sunday December 15th Combined 9am Service
@ Geebung

Sunday December 22nd Combined 9am Service
@ Wavell

Wednesday December 25th Christmas Day
7:30am @ Geebung
8:30am @ Wavell

For your attention



**THIS Wednesday
November 20th
@ 1.30pm
Geebung Church**

Let's give our final Afternoon Fellowship for 2024 a Christmas flavour.

Please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share and your favourite Christmas item. It may be a special card or family photo, a Christmas ornament which inspires a beautiful memory, a poem or a verse. We look forward to hearing you share, so see you there. Please see Beris if you have any questions



**Friday November 29th
South Pacific Dinner
and Entertainment 6:30pm
at Geebung Cost \$30**

Tickets available from Tevita **Today**
We look forward to seeing you there.



The People Who Need Our Prayers

Ann Bain

Maree Massey

Dell Merchant

Graham Power

Bert Wilton

Edna Street

Norma Jenkins

Lian Tan

Margaret Ferris

Marj & Bruce McKenzie

Sylvia Marson

Len Ferris

Malcolm & Judy McMillian



From the Front page

In fact, those who wield Philippians 4:6 as a clobber verse to condemn anxiety as a sin neglect an important detail. Earlier in the letter, Paul describes his own anxiety for the Philippian church. Worry surrounded his decision to send his colleague Epaphroditus back to them.

This has made me all the more eager to send him, so that you'll see him again and be glad, he writes, adding, *and my own anxieties will be laid to rest.* — Philippians 2:28 NTE

Having freely admitted his own anxiety — without a trace of self-condemnation — it would be bizarre for Paul to intend his words “do not be anxious” in Philippians 4:6 to be taken as an expectation that Christians would — or should — never feel anxious.

Therefore, in context, “do not be anxious” in Philippians 4:6 is not meant as condemnation; it is encouragement to experience anxiety within the larger “Now and Not Yet” dynamic of spiritual growth where our current lowly bodies are being transformed to the glory of Christ’s body. Even as we aspire to more freedom from anxiety — an aspiration that will be met completely only in the Not Yet — we simultaneously should expect anxiety to always be part of our current life in the Now.

We should no more expect Christians to be free of anxiety than we should expect Christians to be free of colds, mosquito bites, flat tires, sadness, or mental distraction. Paul brings up anxiety in Philippians 4:6 precisely because he expects it to be a persistent problem for his audience.

Adapted from ***The Anxiety Opportunity: How Worry Is the Doorway to Your Best Self*** by Curtis Chang.

(Part 1 was last week)

**The Now and Not Yet life is defined
by the life goal of becoming like
Jesus.**

'THE GOOD LIFE' (Ps101)(BK 26)

I will sing of Your mercy Lord ...
Your loving kindness and justice
I long to walk in Your wisdom... so that each of my steps may be planted with integrity
and my heart be blameless

I long to stay true to Your path O God...My eyes fixed solely on You
Not turning left...Not turning right

May my heart remain pure Lord... so that there will be no room in my life for the
haughty and the arrogant... so that the proud and conceited will have no place of
residence with me...

Those whose days are led by lies and deceit I will keep far from me

I will look diligently for the faithful
Humility and service will be my life-long neighbours
My heart will continually search for ONLY You...
Your 'Wisdom and Truth' will be my mentors

warm hugs....Gwen

Freshwater Anglican Parish Deception Bay Queensland

be kind
speak truth
love others
show grace
work hard
be grateful
always

Returned Emails:

If you have a 'yahoo.com' email address, any emails being sent
from our geebungwavelluc@bigpond address are currently not
going through. My other emails are going out as usual.



I apologize for the inconvenience and will keep looking for a resolution.

Nov 17

Pentecost 26

1 Sam 1: 4-20

1 Sam 2: 1-10

Heb 10: 11-14, 19-25

Mk 13: 1-8

Nov 24

Christ the King

2 Sam 23: 1-7

Ps 132: 1-12, (13-18)

Rev 1: 4b-8

Jn 18: 33-37

Dec 1

1st Advent

Jer 33: 14-16

Ps 25: 1-110

1 Thes 3: 9-13

Lk 21: 25-36

Dec 8

2nd Advent

Mal 3: 1-4

Lk 1: 68-79

Phil 1: 3-11

Lk 3: 1-6

GEEBUNG

Alternating

59 Simla Ave

Sunday Worship 9.00am

Holy Communion 1st Sun.



Visit us at:

Geebung Uniting
Church

WAVELL HEIGHTS

Alternating

147 Rode Road

Sunday Worship 9.00am

Holy Communion 1st Sun.



Visit us at:

Wavell Heights
Uniting Church

G/W CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson—*Len Ferris*
M.0438 852 676

Secretary—

CHURCH OFFICE

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Normal Office Hours

Thurs 9am—3pm

Friday 9am—1pm