



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Turbulence*

Scripture: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Date: July 6-7, 2019

Message: *Praying Through Turbulence*

—[LET'S START]—

Do you remember the first time that you were a passenger in an airplane? What are some of your memories of that experience? Have you ever experienced turbulence on an airplane? Share with the group some of your turbulence experiences.

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. This week, Pastor Brian began our new series *Turbulence* with a sermon on praying through turbulence. There are a lot of people today that say, "I don't want your prayers," when Christians offer to pray for others going through a difficult time. Why do you think that is? How have you seen prayer make a difference in your life?
3. Read James 1:1-8. What are some of the key takeaways from this passage? What is James trying to communicate to us about trials? About God? About prayer? About doubt? About us?
4. Pastor Brian says that he was just scratching the surface of the richness that is found in Philippians 4. Let's read Philippians 4:1-9 and see if we can mine for some more gold.
5. What strikes you about Paul's words in verses 1-3?
6. Look at verse 4. How can we become people who rejoice in the Lord always?
7. Paul says that, "the Lord is near" in verse 5. Scholars have taken that phrase to mean that the Lord is near to us in our turbulence, but also that His return is near. How does the double meaning of this verse impact your understanding of God and the trials that we experience? How have you experienced the presence of the Lord while facing trials?
8. Read verses 6-7. How difficult is it not to be anxious about anything? How does the way we pray impact how we feel about life's circumstances?
9. Pastor Brian couldn't get there this week, but how do verse 8-9 speak to you?

—[LET'S ACT]—

At the end of his sermon, Pastor Brian challenged those of us who might be going through a period of turbulence to reach out for care. Wooddale Church offers a number of care ministries to our congregation that can be found at wooddale.org/care. Let's talk about how we as a group can meet the needs of someone going through a period of turbulence. How could we serve together to help meet the needs of someone else?

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- We will all face several seasons of turbulence in our lives.
- In the good and the bad, we need to rejoice.
- Paul wrote the most joyful letter in the Bible while in prison awaiting what looked like sure death.
- We've become a culture that is obsessed with using people and loving things rather than loving people and using things. We've put so many things ahead of God and the priorities that He has for us.
- If you want to experience joy, live the way that God has called you to live. Joy is the inevitable result of living your life with God's priorities.
- When going through turbulence, remember that the Lord is near.
- When going through turbulence, go to God first.
- Prayer carries with it the idea of coming to God in a spirit of adoration, devotion and worship. We recognize His greatness, His sufficiency, His attributes.
- Petition is about being honest with God about our needs, our stress, our anxiety, our problems. God wants us to ask.
- Thanksgiving carries with it the idea of appreciation. God loves hearing us say, "Thank you!"
- When our prayer focuses on God and what He is doing in us, when He is the source of our joy, our purpose, our meaning, our everything . . . then we experience the peace of God which transcends all understanding.

—[NOTES]—
