

# Let Your Reasonableness Be Known

Introduction: Scripture Reading: **(Philippians 4:1-6)**

## **GOD'S PEOPLE ARE REASONABLE PEOPLE:**

### **A. The Bible Is Full Of Character Sketches Of Unreasonable Spirits:**

1. The children of Israel weren't in the wilderness long before their faith took an illogical turn **(Num. 14:1-4)**
  - a. Amazingly, this has gone on several times already. They are in the wilderness, things get tough, and they start complaining. They get mad at Moses and God for bringing them out of Egypt!
  - b. They think they had it better and even start making plans to go back! This was a totally illogical response – They knew they suffered in Egypt. They experienced the salvation of the Lord. They crossed the Red Sea & stood at Mt Sinai. God had provided their physical needs several times already. They had every reason to thank, trust, & serve God... Yet they complain.
2. King Saul started out well, but allowed his emotions to overcome him and lost his head **(1 Samuel 18:9)**
  - a. Overreacts to what he hears. He begins imagining the worst & makes assumptions about motives
  - b. Jealousy sets in & turns into full blown rage. He tries to kill David, a man who often soothed him and saved his nation from the Philistines. Spares no time, effort, & cost to hunt David down.
  - c. Saul is even willing to hurt his own son in the process. He even tried to kill Jonathan over his friendship with David. It was clear Saul lost touch with reality & acted totally irrationally
3. Rehoboam also lost touch with all reason in his decision making as the king over Judah **(1 Kings 12:13-14)**
  - a. He's a new king and so he calls in a bunch of counselors. One group was old and one was young. The groups give totally opposing advice. It'd make sense to listen to experience over youth
  - b. Rehoboam does the opposite of what's logical. He ignores the older men's advice and listens to the young men's advice. Additionally, what the young men suggested was totally irrational
  - c. He's a new king, God's people were going through an unsettling time, and Rehoboam decides to increase the difficulty of his rule and be even more overbearing. He breaks out with an iron first instead of showing love and interest in the people he rules. As a result, the nation split!
4. Nebuchadnezzar had a very irrational attitude toward himself and God's message for him **(Daniel 4:34-37)**
  - ➔ His reason returned to him... not just in the way he no longer acted like an animal, but in his renewed perspective. Previously, he had been arrogant. He thought and acted like a self made man. Problem was, his position, wealth, and power weren't of his own doing. God had placed him there and blessed him. It was illogical to boast like it was his own doing!
5. The Pharisees were the epitome of unreasonableness. They displayed it in many different ways:
  - a. In their response to the miracles of Jesus – They didn't try to denounce the miracles, but they sought to silence them. They hid and ignored them. They refused to admit the necessary implications of Jesus healing people, instead they sought to attack the miracles **(Passage)**
  - b. They were unreasonable in the exercise of their religion – These people worked diligently to be religious, but ignored the exercise of mercy, grace, and love to others. It made no sense to go to such great lengths to serve God while pushing aside people God created and loved. They went to great lengths to keep religious acts (like fasting), but overlooked the heart which those very same religious acts were meant to effect.
  - c. Their traditions and understanding of God's law were unreasonable – They loved God's laws yet made up traditions to get out of keeping the ones they didn't like. They kept some laws so "strictly" that they ignored the needs of men.

- d. They lost reason in how they disagreed – They used arguments just because they were convenient at the time. They would ally with the Sadducees, whom they vehemently disagreed with, just so they could team up against Jesus. They refused to answer simple questions.

## **B. Our Pursuit Of A Reasonable Spirit:**

1. First, the passage that sparked this study... God's people possess a reasonable spirit when it comes to their response to worries, anxieties, uncertainties, and fears in their life **(Philippians 4:4-7)**
  - a. The context of this statement is in regard to our getting all worked up over troubles in life. Faith must control our emotions. Everything is put in perspective by our knowledge that Jesus is coming back. That causes us to act reasonably... keeping our cool when things get hot!
  - b. It is unreasonable for a person of faith to be consumed by worry. We have faith in Jehovah who created this world, made us in His image, sent Jesus to die for us, and has promised to carry us through our problems. Worry & faith are contradictory. It makes our faith look illogical!
  - c. If our faith is reasonable we will rejoice always because we have things to rejoice in that nothing can take from us! There will be a methodical composure about us because we know God is in control! We will find peace because we know God has heard us! It makes sense!
  - d. It's hard, but remember what Paul told the Christians at Thessalonica regarding their concern for those who died in Christ. Don't sorrow as those who have no hope. Even in our sorrow over death, we must be conscious of the message our mourning conveys. Do we have reason?
2. We need to be careful to possess a reasonable spirit in our relationships with others **(James 3:15-18)**
  - a. Our love should be reasonable. It is illogical of us to say we love God and yet not love our fellow man, especially our brethren. It doesn't make sense... The same blood shed for me was shed for them. They were created in the same image I was. Have a reasonable love! **(1 John 4:20)**
  - b. How do we respond when we face conflict? A reasonable person listens, gives people the benefit of doubt, keeps calm, doesn't get wound up when dealing with a wound up person, & more.
  - c. We have to be especially purposeful when dealing with an unreasonable person... They will try to get us to play by their rules. Scream, argue, be overcome by emotions, etc... Unreasonable!
  - d. What kind of wisdom is governing our relationships? **(Proverbs 18:13; 30:33; 26:4-5)**
3. A reasonable spirit will be teachable and receptive to the word of the Lord **(James 1:19-25)**
  - a. Remember the unreasonableness of the Pharisees – They had already decided what they believed so they dismissed anything different. They jumped through theological hoops to avoid truth!
  - b. We get frustrated with people when we try to teach them truth about an issue – It seems its always what their pastor says, their parents believe, or what they've always believed. There's always a "Yah but..." or a "I know it says, but..." to every verse. That's unreasonable!
  - c. Are we any better? God's word condemns something in our life, we are commanded to change, or there is a responsibility we are not fulfilling. How do we respond? James makes the point of how illogical it is to see the truth and our state and walk away doing nothing. It's nonsense!
  - d. A reasonable person is quick to hear, slow to speak, & slow to wrath. He examines himself and is always transforming his life. He has a humble view of himself and his spiritual state.
  - e. The unreasonable man gets mad when someone tries to correct him. He has already made up his mind and gets defensive when someone opposes him. He sees himself as right and is not open to the possibility of being wrong. He doesn't listen because he is "argumentating"
4. We need a reasonable spirit when it comes to what we believe and pass on to others **(1 Peter 3:15)**
  - a. Our faith is reasonable and logical. Our faith in God, the creation, the Bible, etc, is not faith because there is no evidence for it. We believe because the evidence overwhelmingly and

- convincingly points in that direction. In other words, don't say, "I take it on faith because there's no concrete proof" – Our faith is logical and rational and based on factual evidence!
- b. Make sure your faith is reasonable! If your faith is reasonable, it is based on solid reasons, not human reasoning... but evidential reasons. Your faith will be defensible and you can defend it! As you face life reasonably in circumstances when many act unreasonably, people will ask you why and how... Be ready to explain and show how reasonable your faith is!
  - c. On the flip side, we need to be careful what we believe in life. Make sure the ideas we accept and forward to others are rationale. Be especially careful with Facebook posts & email forwards.
  - d. Conspiracy theories abound... Most seem reasonable at first, but do they seem reasonable because we have a preconceived distrust of the government? Remember the Pharisees and their response to Jesus. Remember explanations of the empty tomb. Are we any better?
  - e. Examples: Did man really land on the moon... Area 51 and aliens... government secrets... red sea chariots... the lost day found by NASA → We must not be gullible. Do your own research!
5. God's people will also be reasonable as they face temptations and sin in their life. **(James 1:13-18)**
- a. God has gone to great lengths to provide our salvation. God is the giver of good gifts. The cross shows what He will do to rid our lives of sin. He always provides a way of escape.
  - b. So when we lose the battle with temptation, why do we blame God? God does not tempt us to sin. When we sin it is not God's fault, we sin in spite of everything God has done!
  - c. Are we reasonable? Do we hide our sin, or do we face it and accept responsibility with repentance, confession, and restitution? Remember how unreasonable David was!