

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

-Philippians 4:6

The message in this verse is obvious; there is no reason to be anxious if you trust in God. When in a time of pressure, believe in God and believe that he will protect you. If there is ever a situation where you need guidance, assistance, or even just reassurance, this verse tells us that God is there and that he is willing to help us in our ventures. Think of God as your friend who has always been there for you. God is that friend that will help you prepare for an interview, build up your confidence to ask that cute girl out, or even just be a shoulder to cry on when it's needed. However, here's the catch; just like that friend, God needs you to be a friend back. The specific phrase used in this verse is: "by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving;" this statement directly means that if you ask God with an open heart and true affection towards him, He will receive your prayer. However, without thankfulness, our prayers become tainted. Without praising the Lord and appreciating his gifts, our requests turn into rapacity requests. Our calls for hope turn into calls for wants and desires. Everything from God is a gift, a blessing, given to us in hope that we will be thankful. The final part of this verse is the most

important: "Present your requests to God." Nowhere in this phrase does it say we will receive what we ask for which is the common misconception. Our purpose on this Earth is to learn how to love and how to give thanks. The Bible tells us that once we reach heaven we will have a life more bountiful than we could imagine, but not on earth. Our purpose isn't to acquire wealth and power; our purpose is to spread love and prosperity. God will provide everything we need because God has invested too much into us to let us fail. So, when this verse tells us to present our requests to God, it tells us that God wants us to ask him for help. But it also tells us that we will not receive everything we ask for. However, it is a promise from God that we will receive enough. So, trust in God, believe in him, and present your needs to him, and know that God will not fail you.