

THE ULTIMATE WHY

Living Our Lives
For God's Glory

COLOSSIANS 3:17



THE WHY OF STRESS

4 Gifts for This Political Season

Colossians 4:2-6

GIFT #1: CONSISTENCY - RESPONSES (4:2)

 Prayer - watchful ⇌ gratitude

Cultivate the habits of prayer, being present, and thanksgiving

GIFT #2: CALLING - REMEMBER (4:3-4)

 Mission - open doors ⇌ clear message

Prepare for the moments when the door opens to share the gospel (Leads to clarity)

GIFT #3: WISDOM - RELATIONSHIPS (4:5)

 Relationships ⇌ Time

Live to influence another day . . .

GIFT #4: COLLABORATION - ENERGY (4:6)

 Grace/Purity () ⇌ Discernment

Use beneficial [energized] words seasoned with grace and holiness (purity)

Say things in a way that people will listen . . .

Discussion Questions

1. Read James 1:2-4. What does it look like for a follower of Jesus to be 'mature and complete'? [LCSB]
2. Read Colossians 4:2 and Ephesians 6:18. What are the biggest obstacles that hinder your prayer life?"
3. Read Colossians 4:6. Do you find it easy or difficult to be "gracious" in your speech? Where do we get the power [energy] to succeed in using our words with discernment grace, and purity? [LCSB]
4. Look at the 4 gifts discussed in the sermon. Which one do you need to embrace during this season. Pray thanking God for this gift as you deal with the stress in your life.

THEY ULTIMATE WHY?

TAKING A DEEPER LOOK AT WHO WE ARE,
WHAT WE DO, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6: Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison — ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

JAMES 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

PHILIPPIANS 4:5-7: Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be **anxious** about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

DANIEL 7:15a As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was **anxious**

MATTHEW 6:25-27,34 . . . do not be **anxious** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? . . . ³⁴ do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. - Jesus

LUKE 10:40-42 . . . Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to *Jesus* and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are **anxious** and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-15: Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.