

# The Gift of His Peace

Mother's Day 2023

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John 14:27 (NKJV) "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

**Introduction:** It's simple for us to question how we will ever find true peacefulness in a chaotic and confusing world, how we will remain rooted and resist giving into fear. And it stands to reason that there are so many things in both our society and the outside world that might rob us of our peace. This is why we need the Peace of God in our lives.

Since it's Mother's Day today, I think about the young moms who may be asking themselves, "What will the world be like when my kids grow up?"

People talk about the good old days when kids could play outside and return home in the early evening before sunset. In those days 'parents would literally send them out to play and say "don't come home until dinner time"

Times have changed and the world may have gotten chaotic, but Jesus assures us in today's scripture that in the midst of the chaos around us we can have His peace.-

*The Greek word for Peace – eirene (i-rah-nay) literally means "to join, or set at one again". This word conveys the sense of an inner rest, well-being and harmony.*

Listen to this verse in the amplified version:

John 14:27 (AMP) - Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [*Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.*]

Jesus spoke these words to his followers to prepare them for what was to come, his death, burial, and resurrection.

They had traveled with Him up to this point, witnessed all of his miracles, spent time with him in prayer, and sat at his feet to hear all of his teachings. They had spent three years living with and experiencing God's actual Son. He's now talking about leaving them.

One can only image their grief, fear, and anxiety at the prospect of losing him. However, Jesus reminds them that even though he is leaving, he is leaving them with a

gift of peace. Not the kind of peace that the world provides (which is temporary), but a peace that will remain with them (in them) so that they will not be troubled or afraid.

**There are three things that stand out to me from this passage:**

**First – The peace Jesus gives is a gift**

John 14:27 (New Living Translation) I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.

How could Jesus give such a gift? Jesus gives the gift of peace because He is known as the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6) One of God's names in the Bible is Jehovah Shalom which means the Lord is Peace. The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, means wholeness in all of life, completeness, welfare, safety.

C.S. Lewis said, *"God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."*

*The ultimate peace that we have is peace with God as a result of Christ's work on the cross.*

We were once separated from God, but because of what Jesus accomplished through His death, burial, and resurrection, we have been "set at one again" or at peace with God.

Romans 5:1-2 (NLT) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

<sup>2</sup> Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

We can live in peace even though everything around us appears to be chaotic because of what Jesus did on the cross to bring us into a relationship with God.

The second thing that stands out in this verse is that...

**His peace is different from the world's peace**

John 14:27 (NLT) "I am leaving you with a gift, peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.

The very word Peace elicits a sense of calm, serenity, and confidence that everything will work out for the best.

However, we know that even after accepting Christ into our lives, not everything is flawless. There will not always be blue skies and smooth sailing.

The peace Jesus is referring to transcends our present circumstances and is not determined by them.

#### IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM

We all remember the passage in scripture (Mark 4:35-39) when Jesus is sleeping in the boat while they are in the middle of the storm, and the disciples wake him up saying "don't you care that we are perishing?" Have you ever wondered why he was able to sleep in the middle of a storm? Jesus knew he would make it to the other side, he knew that this storm was not going to take him out. The very words Jesus used when he arose to rebuke the storm was "Peace, be still" and the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Likewise, when we know that we are in the center of God's will no matter the circumstance, the storms and the chaos, we will have peace - for His Peace is not like the worlds!

There will be times of uncertainty, but our peace will come from knowing the Prince of Peace, our peace will come from knowing who we are in Christ, our peace will come from knowing that He has written your name on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49:16) and no one can take us out. (John 10:28)

If you look to the world for peace, you will never find it. The world's peace is temporary. It is only for a short time.

There is distinction between the world's peace and God's:

#### **World's Peace:**

Dependent upon circumstances  
Exists only in absence of trouble  
Tries to be in control  
Never Lasts

#### **Peace of God:**

Dependent on God  
Exists even in the presence of trouble  
Trust God to control, to lead  
Always endures

The world's peace is a hollow promise that can only provide momentary relief.

God's peace is a lasting peace provided by the only One who can be trusted to keep his promises.

There will be no real peace without a relationship with God; in fact, God's word declares, "there is no peace for the wicked," which seems harsh but is true.

The third and final thing that stands out in our passage is...

**We can choose to live in the peace God has given or not**

John 14:27 (NKJV) Jesus said ...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

(AMP) Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

We have a choice... embrace the gift of peace or live in fear.

- Troubled – to be worried, anxious, concerned
- Afraid – to be timid, fearful of what's to come or might come

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV) You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. <sup>4</sup>Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Ps. 119:165 (NKJV) Great peace have they that love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble (or be offended).

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God: <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When we are tempted to fear, when we are lured away by our thoughts, it is because we are not in control of the situation or because we are dwelling on things that produce anxiety or events that have not yet occurred. At that time we need to be reminded that Jesus has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power love and a sound mind! He has given us the gift of peace!

**Conclusion:** LEARN to live in the peace of God, by meditating on His word and His promises; let Him guide you, trust His leadership. REST in him for HE leads you beside peaceful streams,

He renews your strength and restores your soul; guiding you along right paths to bring honor to His name. (Ps. 23)

JESUS is giving you the gift of peace - receive it, use it and live in His Peace!