

Peace, God's Gift to His Children

God's Word tells us in John 14:27; "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

I desire to walk daily in His peace as you do. Not just when things are going well, but in the difficult times as well.

We recently spent some time with our oldest son, Ken Jr., and his family in Oklahoma. God has blessed them with a wonderful home in a country setting. While setting on the back deck looking at the trees and watching all the birds and animal life and seeking the Lord, I had this overwhelming feeling of God's peace sweep all over me.

As I reflected on my experience I realized that my life was filled with so many distractions that at times literally rob me of His daily peace. Yes, even in fulfilling my ministry calling and related services.

We live in a world with countless numbers of people, demands on our time, activities and circumstances which can distract us from our focus on Jesus, the author of our true peace.

Oswald Chambers states in his devotional book "My Utmost For His Highest," "When we are awakened to the realities of life, true inner peace is impossible unless it is received from Jesus. When our Lord speaks peace, He creates peace, because the words that He speaks are always Spirit, and they are life." John 6:63

In Philippians 4:6-7 we are told; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Distractions are one of the greatest tools that the enemy has to divert our focus off from Jesus. Many of these distractions are very subtle, but ultimately rob us of our peace.

John 16:33 tells us; "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Colossians 3: 15 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

How can we rest in His peace regardless of our circumstances?

1. *Change Our Focus*

Colossians 3:2 - Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2. *Take Charge of Our Thought Life*

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

II Corinthians 10:5 - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

3. *Trust God in All Our Circumstances*

Psalms 9:10 - Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, Lord have never forsaken those who seek You.

Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

I trust that these words will have challenged you as they have me and that we will all purpose together not to allow lethargy, busyness or the enemy to distract us from God's peace that comes from maintaining our focus on God regardless of our circumstances.