

## Peace, Perfect Peace.

As I write this short study on peace, I am very aware of the wars that are raging throughout the world. *Matthew 24:6* tells us, '**And** you will hear of **wars and rumours of wars**. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.' Israel is under attack, Russia has again invaded the Ukraine, this has been ongoing for well over 1 year now. There is an ever-increasing tension throughout the world. The state church is in a terrible state, and there is division within the church throughout the world. Jesus reminds us that these things *must* come to pass. It is not unexpected!

Is it horrible to watch? Yes!

Is it awful to witness? Yes!

Should you let it steal your peace? NO!

The peace of God that passes all understanding has already been given to you. You already have it. Perhaps you know this already. Perhaps you placed down for a second and forgot to pick it up again *or* perhaps you never realised that you had it at all. Today we are going to look at Jesus words to his disciples in John chapter 14. He speaks about how we have been given the Peace of God and should not be troubled or afraid.

### **DAY 1.**

Jesus says in *John 14:27*

**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.

We have been given a beautiful gift. Not a peace that we need to go searching for throughout the world. The world offers, peace and tranquillity through meditation and mindfulness. And it works, for those who apply it deeply to their lives. It may seem surprising, but Jesus was not surprised. He knew about the different ways that men try to find inner peace. Tapping into the universe and listening to the sound of our breathing, being aware of the ground that we stand on and our place in the grand scheme of things. He clearly says, '*...not as the world gives...*'

The peace Jesus gives has eternal links. It comes from the creator of the universe himself. The same breath of God that spoke and created the earth, is the same breath that breathed life into Adam and mankind.

***Why would anyone go to a created element seeking peace that comes from the creator himself!***

Through Jesus we have access to perfect peace. Worldly peace will have an eternal price to be paid. Worldly peace, will only last a lifetime, and the cost of worldly peace is losing your soul. **Mark 8:36** says, 'For what will it profit a man if he **gains the whole world**, and loses his own soul?' I would rather have eternity than all the world can give, I would rather have Jesus than all the world can give. Don't be taken in by the world's ways. Jesus always gives you more.

1. Think about how you respond to anxious situations.
2. Did you realise that in Christ you are free to walk in God's Peace.
3. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus. Thank-you for the gift of peace that you have given to me. Thank you that you are always with me and that I can walk daily in the knowledge that you have given me perfect peace, better than any that the world can give.

Amen.

## Day 2.

Yesterday we looked at the perfect peace that comes from Jesus. A peace that surpasses any that the world can give. Today we will look at Paul's words in Philippians Chapter 4 and learn how walking in peace brings a wonderful additional gift with it.

**Philippians 4:6-8** tells us the encouraging news that we have the peace of God already within us. <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

More than that, we do not need to be anxious about anything. Neither anything we need or anything we see. Even though we don't understand it. Even though we would rather it was not happening. I would love to put the news on and hear about peace in the world, and revival breaking out globally. I would love to see Miracle E.R. and 24 hours in the healing room, where Dr's and Nurses administer care and prayer, seeing lives restored, blind eyes opened, and limbs repaired. Yet God works differently to my thoughts and ways. **Isaiah 55 v 8** says His ways are not my ways, and his thoughts are not my thoughts. I must lean on him, trust him and be at peace. God uses medical staff daily to save lives and restore people to health. Who am I to argue, instead I choose to rejoice in this and pray for all those who work in the emergency services continually.

Philippians goes on to say that the peace we have been given will guard our hearts and minds. This is HUGE!

Do you realise how big this is. If you are walking in anxiety, you have placed your peace down somewhere. Pick it up again and your peace, like a shield will stand guard over your heart and mind. Let the peace of God be a shield in your life daily. Hold onto it, don't put it down. Cling to it even more in the days we live in. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, I thank you that you have given more than I could ask or even imagine. Your peace not only allows me to walk without anxiety, but your peace also guards my heart and my mind. Allowing me to walk without burden through life's trials and celebrations, as you protect me every day.

### Day 3.

As we continue in our short study on peace, we are going to look at Jesus words in John chapter 16. Here we see the lifelong partnership of two of God's greatest gifts to us. Jesus' opens the sentence by reminding us about things he has already said. In John chapter 14-16 Jesus covers a lot of encouraging earthly and eternal teaching. Starting with, 'Let not your heart be troubled,' in John 14 v 1, and moving onto the Father revealed, John 14 v 7, answered prayer, v 12, the coming Holy Spirit, v 15, the true vine Chapter 15, Love and Joy Perfected, v 9, the world's hatred and rejection of Jesus and us, and the works of the Holy Spirit. From this vast array of rich teaching Jesus sums up in v 33. **John 16:33**, 'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'

'These things I have spoken to you so that you may have peace...and Joy.'

Being of good cheer is the foundation of Joy. Jesus wants us to walk in Peace and Joy regardless of what we see happening around us.

Can we hurt? Yes!

Can we grieve? Yes!

Is sorrow allowed? Yes!

But Joy comes in the morning.

We can cast off our grave clothes, (our mournful and sorrowful ways), and put on the garments of Joy in every season. Like most garments, we are prone to taking them off and putting them back on again, especially when the seasons are changing. When summer moves into autumn for example, we have jumpers and cardigans of and on, zips on jackets up and down, as we acclimatise to the new season. It is the same when we move from sorrow and grief into Joy. We feel guilty at our first laugh after the loss of a loved one. We go back into grave clothes mode. Then we put joy on again, to-ing and fro-ing between them both until our guilt, through time is washed away, and our peace and joy eventually remain in residence.

Be of good cheer today if you are going through a difficult time, whether grief or concern, sorrow, or tribulation. Jesus has overcome it all. Read John chapters 14-16 and be encouraged that you not only have Peace, but you have

Joy everlasting that walks hand in hand with it, and with you, every day of your earthly life.

1. Have you been through loss recently, perhaps you are going through it right now. Grief is a journey that you will always walk. Yet as you journey on, you can and will laugh again. You can and will walk in peace and Joy, even as you continue to grieve. Invite Jesus into your journey of grief with you, let him lead you daily and you will heal in time.
2. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, I thank you again for your perfect peace. I thank you that you invite me to be of good cheer, seeing your words of eternal life, I accept your invitation. As you lead me with all tenderness and wisdom, I know that I will walk stronger each day in the eternal partnership of the Peace and Joy that you have given me.

Amen.

#### DAY 4.

Our final day in this study looks at Proverbs chapter 3 verses 13-18. King Solomon had asked for wisdom more than riches, and God gave him both. His sayings are profoundly prophetic and show us that the way we should live under heaven has been and remains always the same. As we walk along life's pathways, we find that they are not always pleasing. We started this study by mentioning the condition of the world around us today. Walking in wisdom for Christian believers means walking in the fullness of scripture. Learning about all of God's ways, and continually growing in all that he has for us. The search for happiness is as old as time, and we see here, that even the richest man there ever was states that his happiness is found in having wisdom. He goes on to personify wisdom, referring to it as, 'her'.

#### ***Proverbs 3 13-18.***

Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom,  
And the man *who* gains understanding;  
<sup>14</sup> For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver,  
And her gain than fine gold.  
<sup>15</sup> She *is* more precious than rubies,  
And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.  
<sup>16</sup> Length of days *is* in her right hand,  
In her left hand riches and honour.  
<sup>17</sup> Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,  
And all her paths *are* peace.  
<sup>18</sup> She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her,  
And happy *are all* who retain her.

Her worth is greater than riches and rubies, nothing you can desire will ever compare to being wise. Her ways are pleasant, and her pathways are peace.

Ahh, there it is, peace. Her pathways are peace. Peace on your journey. Peace throughout life. Peace and life to all who take hold of her. The tree representing life, deep roots, growth, seasonal changes, and abundant fruit. 'And happy are all who retain her.'

Ooh, I want some of that!

The good news is that in Jesus Christ, you have it all. **Peter 1 v 3 says**, 'as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness,'

The very thing that King Solomon prophesied, you now have through Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

1. Happiness
2. Wisdom
3. Understanding
4. Length of days
5. Pleasantness
6. Peace.

That is a wonderful and impressive list. And it is yours in Jesus Christ. These are the treasures of heaven, here on earth. These and more. These are the things you should long to prosper in. For like Paul's list of the fruits of the spirit in Galatians 5, against these there is no law.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, I trust in you and long to continue to walk in peace and joy, knowing that my heart and mind are guarded in Jesus Christ. I want to walk daily with you Lord Jesus, it is the wise thing to. I choose to remember that, in you and through you, I live and move and have my being. My Peace, Joy, Happiness, and Wisdom are found in You.

Amen.