

## PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*Isaiah 66:12* Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.

Some things you never forget. A particular flight I took from Canada to England was one of them. The flight was proceeding as normal when, as often is the case, we entered into an area of turbulence. An announcement was made and everyone summoned to their seat. Within a short time the plane was rising and falling, shaking and lurching like nothing I had ever experienced on any flight before. A stewardess, not yet buckled in her seat, fell to the floor as she lost her footing in the movement of the plane. From the sound of other passengers I could tell many were alarmed, including the complete stranger sitting next to me, who grabbed my hand and held onto it tightly. In this position we sat securely buckled in riding out the storm. I prayed openly seeking God's protection.

If I had relied on my feelings, I would have been afraid for I could not feel God's presence just the effects of the worst turbulence I had ever flown in. However, I knew He was with me and His plan for my life was not yet completed. As I prayed I heard His still small voice. He spoke a verse of scripture to me from *Psalms 121:8*, "The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore." That was all I needed. Assurance for this moment and a promise of continued protection. He then added the words, "Peace like a river." Amazing isn't it, that you and I can enjoy peace that flows without interruption, peace like a river. Peace that is maintained by the Lord in our hearts through thick and thin, valley and mountain top experiences. Peace that the world cannot give or take away, when our trust is in the Lord.

God gives us His peace for each moment of our lives when we choose to listen to and trust in what He says to us through His word. Peace is ours as we believe and expect that He will be faithful to do what He has promised on our behalf.

Experiencing continual peace means choosing not to listen to the voice of reason, especially when things appear far from well and even more so when they seem to be out of our control. When we call on the name of Jesus, our Saviour, Healer and Deliverer, He will come to our aid. As we listen to the voice of the Spirit we can know the steps of obedience to take, which will lead us to victory in every situation that challenges us in life. We have every reason to trust and not be afraid because our faithful God is always with us to protect and keep us. Our heavenly Father watches over us night and day. He has engraved us in the palm of His hand. (*Isaiah 49:16*)

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I would have you close to Me, to be by My side at all times. For in this place you can draw on My strength and experience the warmth of My presence. You can face the future with confidence. Yes, you can stand tall with peace in your heart in the midst of every situation that comes your way. You need not fear. Receive My peace and it will empower you moment by moment as you simply trust Me. You will live in the awareness of My presence as you stay connected with Me, and I will lift your load. Yes, allow Me to lift those weights of anxiety and care even now. By faith roll them over on to Me for there is no need for you to carry them. In Me you will find your freedom and a life that overflows with My blessing.