

THE GIFT OF PEACE

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.

Jesus contrasts the peace He gives with the peace the world has to offer. His peace is not conditional upon external things being just right or on an absence of trouble. No, this is God's peace and it becomes ours when we trust God and take Him at His word. It is a spiritual force that is so powerful it can rule the raging of the sea. At Jesus' command, when the disciples were being tossed about in their boat by angry waves, His words, "Peace, be still" subdued the storm. We read, "The wind ceased and there was a great calm." (*Mark 4:39*)

Jesus was facing the cross but knew He would rise from the dead and return to the Father. He told the disciples He was leaving His peace with them but they, as we do, had to reach out and receive it.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace and we read His words to the Church of the Laodiceans in *Revelation 3:20*, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." He does not force His way into our lives, but He waits and knocks to be invited to come in and fellowship with us. As the gate keepers of our lives, we are the only ones that can open the door.

The choice is ours. Are we going to entertain anxiety and care or are we going to receive the gift of peace that Jesus offers us? Let not your heart be troubled is more than a suggestion. It's a command of Jesus. Our Father God seeks our well-being and does not want His children to be burdened down with the cares of this life.

This gift of peace is priceless and it's given to us as our precious possession. When others around us are overwhelmed with the pressures of this life they will take notice of the tranquility we enjoy in the midst of life's difficulties. What an opportunity we have to share the gospel of peace with these who so desperately need it.

I am your Shepherd and I lovingly guide and protect you by day and by night. Listen for My voice and follow Me closely. By the power of My Spirit within you, you will be enabled to do the things I have purposed for your life and I will give you the wisdom you need for each step you take. As you walk in obedience to do the things that I will show you, you will not stumble and you will not fear because you will be upheld and supported by My arms of love.