

Peace that Lasts

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.

~ John 14:27

Discover the Context John 14



When you think of peace, what comes to mind? How may the world's concept of peace differ from the peace emphasized in today's devotion? In what ways can a Christian convey the truth of God's peace? Share an instance of God's peace that you've experienced so far this summer.



"All men desire peace, but very few desire those things that make for peace."

~ Thomas a' Kempis



At the back of this book, make a list of some of the titles of Christ that affirm His eternal peace. Also list some of the things Christ has done that demonstrate His peace (for instance, the giving of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16). To get started, look up the word "peace" in a concordance.

Tragedy, heartache, and sorrow are bound to happen in our world because we are sinners living in a fallen world. God's people are not immune from such "broken world realities," and because we are not home yet, we will continue to struggle with life in this fallen world. When God says that this present world is broken, fallen, and in bondage, it means that things don't work as they were intended. People get sick, contract diseases, die in car accidents.

Jesus knew this and forewarned his disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1). Later He says that in spite of difficult and tumultuous circumstances, we can have peace that lasts.

We tend to live as if we have all the time we need to devote attention to the most important things in life, but we don't. How would you live differently today if you knew this was your last day on earth? That's peace.

Part of God's greater good that He works out through the tragedies that befall His people is to display His grace, which is at work in the hearts of His people. This grace is contrasted with the despair and hopelessness that is often seen in unbelievers. God meets His people in the midst of distress, not only with His word of promise, but also with His very presence as well. God's presence with His people produces a peace that lasts.

A life crisis is an opportunity to reaffirm faith and belief in the good purposes of a sovereign God. No one can know what tomorrow may bring, but we know that the One who holds the future is good and that His promises never fail. It may not be what you want to know, but it is really all you need to know.

Peace that lasts is not dependent on circumstances, but on fellowshiping with Jesus. [MLH]