

2016

# Finding Peace in a Troubled World

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28-30)*

Eternal Walk Ministry

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## ***Finding Peace in a Troubled World***

**How do we find peace when we hear about the troubling things in the world every time we listen to the news or read the newspaper? We hear about killing in schools, shopping malls, and Christians tortured and killed in other parts of the world. We read that the economy is fragile and everything seems to be increasing in price.**

**According to Biblical prophecy the world may not get any better in the last days. So how can we live with the peace and joy that the Lord desires for us?**

***But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. (2 Timothy 3 1-4)***

**This scripture is not encouraging because it is telling us that people are becoming more self-centered and less loving. We see hearts of anger from the violent acts people commit.**

**Following is a description of how God, through Christ, gives us peace, joy, and security in this troubled world. We can walk in this world without the fear that Satan tries to put into our hearts.**

### ***Peace from the Holy Spirit***

**Lasting peace only comes from God through the indwelling Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.**

***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)***

**We have all sinned, and sin is like a diseased soul that we cannot cure. Only God can cure our diseased soul, and he did this when Christ died on the cross as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. Christ, God in the flesh, was sinless and was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. In order to receive God's forgiveness through Christ we must accept Christ as Lord. This means we have the desire to repent, to change from our sinful life to the Christ directed life.**

***If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)***

***Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)***

**When we confess God's truth that Christ defeated death, raised from the grave, ascended into heaven, and we follow by baptism; we will receive the indwelling Holy Spirit.**

***If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17)***

**We now have the indwelling Holy Spirit and God sees us sinless because he sees the Holy Spirit in us. We now live by God's grace and forgiveness. We fight the sinful nature but we cannot be perfect, therefore when we sin we ask for forgiveness and power from God to overcome. Knowing we have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life is essential in having the divine peace from God.**

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)***

**The fruit of the Spirit is God's love and the remaining fruit comes from a heart of love. The peace and joy get stronger as God's love fills our heart.**

**We are now in the family of God and heaven is our home. We cannot have the peace that transcends understanding without knowing we have eternal life with God**

## ***The Family of God***

**The family of God, our church family, is where we find love, support, and comfort. We are united with our brothers and sisters through the Holy Spirit which bonds us together in God's love. Peace comes from having close Christian friends who support and help us in our need.**

***..... there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)***

**Our church family consists of people throughout the world who are united in Christ. Christ is head of the church and it is Christ's love and guidance through the Holy Spirit that provides unity in the church.**

***And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:18)***

**The relationships that the church provides, brings us comfort which is a necessity if we are to maintain peace, because in this world we have trouble that can take away our peace. We will discuss how we can maintain a heart of peace even when life is difficult.**

## ***Faith***

**Faith is the key to living the Christian life. Without faith we cannot please God and we cannot live with a heart of peace and joy.**

***And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)***

***Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans. 5:1)***

**These scriptures reveal to us the importance of faith. We are justified by faith and we cannot please God without faith.**

**Through faith we know that the Lord guides us with his love, wisdom, and power to overcome any situation in life. If we walk with the Lord, patiently walking through our days making wise decisions and making wise plans, the Lord promises to lead us through any situation in life.**

***Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)***

***So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)***

**Trusting the Lord requires giving God control. This means we pray for needs and accept God's timing and his will, which may be different from our timing and our will. Know God's will is perfect even if we don't understand. God doesn't owe us an explanation, he wants us to trust him and know his love for us. He didn't give Job an explanation, and it taught Job to trust God. (Job 42)**

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)***

***Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)***

**From reading the word we learn about God, and as we experience God in our life we come to know him. Walking in obedience to God's will is how we experience him in our life. We spend time with the Lord, read his Word, pray, and commune with the Lord throughout the day. This brings more peace and comfort to our soul. The more we walk in the Lord's will, the more we commune with the Lord, the closer relationship we develop with the Lord; the more faith we obtain, and the more peace and joy we experience. We cannot have peace that transcends understanding with having faith in God.**

***We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. (1 John 2:3)***

**From the Bible we see that God cannot lie, but always keeps his promises. Knowing this will help us to believe God's promises.**

***...it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:18-19)***

**Satan will try and steal our peace, especially when trials and tribulations come into our life. This is when we stand secure in faith, as we give our fear, anxiety,**

**and worry to the Lord and ask him to guide us through our troubles one step at a time, walking in his wisdom. We live for Christ and give the Lord our anxious moments in order to maintain peace.**

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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. (Philippians 4:6-7)***

***Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)***

**God promises that if we give him our anxious moments, through prayer and thanksgiving he will take our anxiety from us and give us his peace. It is important that we trust the Lord and walk in obedience to his perfect will. This is our part in fulfilling God's promises to us.**

***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)***

**God is continually molding us to the mind of Christ, a mind that trusts the Lord and is filled with peace and joy. As God renews our mind, our faith will increase, giving us a fulfilling life with peace and joy.**

## ***Our Heart***

***The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)***

**God looks at our heart and our heart is revealed by our thoughts.**

***The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. (Genesis 6:5)***

**God knows our every thought and our thoughts drive our words, actions, and emotions. Our thoughts also have a great impact on our psychological and physical health. Thoughts of fear, anxiety, anger, unforgiveness, bitterness, revenge, etc., are toxic to our brain and destroy any hope of having peace and**

**joy. We are created in the image of God, and we are designed to have a mind filled with love and hope. A mind filled with God's love is a mind of peace.**

***You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. (Isaiah 26:3)***

## ***Ambassador for Christ***

**If the following verses are realized in our heart, then love, faith, peace, joy, comfort, confidence, and security reach an all new level.**

***We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:20)***

***Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:37)***

**These verses will change our heart giving us a divine purpose in life, walking with the Lord as his ambassador, living each day reflecting Christ to everyone. This becomes our reason for existence, living for Christ. As an ambassador we know we live in a foreign country, this world is not our home, heaven is our home. When our ambassadorship is over we go home.**

**This attitude motivates us to willingly give God control, letting him guide us by the Holy Spirit. We are now confident in giving God our life and placing life's circumstances in his hands. We are now living in God's protective hands, and our souls are protected by his love and divine power.**

***Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)***

***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24)***

***But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)***



**Giving God control and living as an ambassador for Christ will greatly reduce our fear and give us peace and comfort in any of life's circumstances. God will lead us through life as we live as his ambassador.**

**Being an ambassador for Christ helps us in our relationships and in our work. An ambassador for Christ has a heart filled with God's love that is reflected to family, friends, and to the world. This is the ultimate life, the life God created us to live.**

**For those in God's family, Christ promises life to the full, and we cannot live life to the full without peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. With the love from God we can live life to the fullest, even when we experience trouble in this world.**

***The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I have come that they may live, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)***

### ***The Apostle Paul***

**The apostle Paul lived a difficult life, but he learned to be content in all situations as he lived for Christ.**

***Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? (2 Corinthians 11:24-29)***

**Let's look at Paul's attitude toward these trials and tribulations.**

***I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (Philippians 4:12)***

**Paul learned the secret of “being content in any and every situation.” If the Lord enabled Paul to be content in every situation then the Lord will do the same for you.**

***Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism. (Acts 10:34)***

**Paul lived as an ambassador for Christ knowing that heaven was his home. He was filled with peace and joy from the Holy Spirit as he walked in total submission to serving the Lord, ministering to the early churches and particularly to the gentiles. He was supported by the members of the churches who visited him in prison, and they took his letters (epistles) with them back to the churches.**

***Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. (Philippians 1:18-26)***

**I personally believe that Paul was more content than I may ever be, because he was close to the Lord and lived to serve the Lord in full obedience. Nothing was more important for Paul than to complete his life serving the Lord. The love, peace, and joy from the Spirit was so powerful in his soul, it overrode the suffering he went through.**

***For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)***

**Paul new his ambassadorship was about finished and he was ready to go home. Heaven was his home and it was a source of peace and joy for him. Paul lived for Christ but saw death as gain, he new life began in heaven with Christ after he took his last breath. You might say Paul was living with his heart and soul in heaven.**

## ***Summary***

**Finding peace in this troubled world is summarized in the following six steps. Each step brings a level of peace, but all seven steps will bring the peace that transcends understanding.**

- 1. Accept Christ as your Lord and Savior and receive the Holy Spirit. Divine peace comes from God through the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Fellowship with other Christians. Obtain close brothers/sisters in the church who can provide God's love, support, and encouragement.**
- 3. Trust the Lord and believe his promises. Pray in the morning, during the day, and in the evening. Commune with God during the day, praising and thanking him and asking him for wisdom and guidance, (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).**
- 4. Read the Word daily to better understand the ways of God, to know his love, and his promises. The level of peace we experience depends on the level of God's love in our heart.**
- 5. When fear, anxiety, or worry occur, give it to the Lord through prayer and thanksgiving, and receive peace from God. Walk in faithful obedience to God's pleasing and perfect will as he leads you through life, especially the difficult times in life. (Philippians 4:6,7)**
- 6. Consider yourself as an ambassador for Christ, and consider it to be your mission in life. Show Christ to family, co-workers, friends, and strangers; by your attitude and actions. Know that this world is not your home it is your mission field. You have a divine purpose in life, to reflect God's love to everyone.**

***For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that***

***you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1: 9-12)***