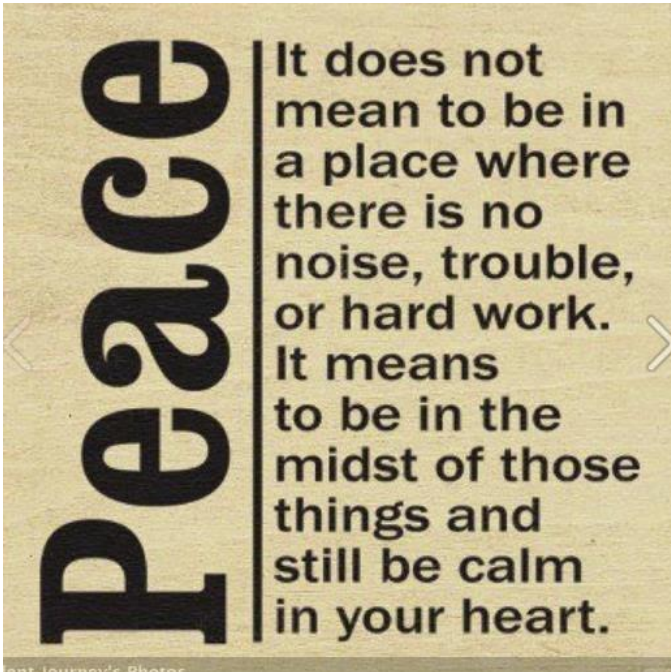


Peace



Words from God in the Midst of Your Storm

Peace

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Peace is my bequest to you Konx

Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace NEB

I leave you peace; I give you my own peace Gspd

Peace I bequeath to you... Ber

My peace is nothing like the peace of this world Phi

Such as the world cannot give NEB

And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives! Tay

Don't allow your hearts to be unsettled or intimidated Ber

Do not let your heart be distressed, or play the coward Knox

To say that our world has drifted far from the peaceful shore is a gross understatement! The year 2020 so far has proven to be anything but a year of peace and tranquility. The world is wrestling with a global pandemic. Civil unrest has reached a fever pitch. Economic chaos is taking its toll and political upheaval is running amuck. To be far, this is not the first time the world has been in this condition; chaos of this magnitude seems to plague every generation, but what is different about this time as compared to other times in modern history, is the unsettled state of affairs here in the United States. Not since the Civil War has our democracy been so tested. And to make matters worse, at least we had a stable mind (Lincoln) leading our country through the Civil War, but our current white house is the leading cause of the unrest that threatens our county's demise. The word Peace is foreign to our lips and thoughts of

peace are like a vapor that rises and dissipates before it has time to form.

It is because of these conditions that the need for peace is so critical. Peace! Peace! Peace! Peace is what our hearts, like a dry desert, thirst for. Only Peace can quince the desire of our hearts and souls. Peace is what we seek and Peace is what we long for, but where can a world so bereft of it go to find it?

For an answer, Jesus gives us the key; He said “*Peace I bequeath to you*” As He prepared to leave this plain of existence, His last will and testament was that we be given His peace. Jesus makes it very clear that His departing gift of peace was not some shallow, fading rhetoric. He says the gift (peace) that I give you is nothing like the fragile peace of this world. Jesus peace is the “*Peace of God which passeth all understanding*”(Philippians 4:7)

Peace beyond comprehension? How than that be? How is that possible? To answer these questions let's take a step back. In Verse 6 of Philippians 4 the scripture says "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be know unto God. Paul, by no means is suggesting that we live irresponsibly, but what he is saying is that as we carry on the business of life, remember that we have asked for our daily bread, which means that we have already asked God to give us everything necessary to equip us for the challenges that we will face, so there should not be any reason to make any exception that would be an exemption from God's care. He can and will handle it all. We should, however, make sure that we have been humble and sincere with our petitions. That being said, we can rest, be at peace, knowing that whatever may come, no matter how great or small, God has our back! "Peace does not

mean that we can be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.” That is the peace that passeth all understanding! You don’t need to know or understand how God does it just believe in you hear that He can!

Yes, these are bewildering times. Our country has never been lower. The moral center of America seems to have vacated. The Whitehouse has never been more corrupt. The true character of America’s race relationships is laying bare for the whole world to see. Yet, and indeed in spite of these condition God’s word is reverberating with crystal clarity; Just as he spoke to the winds and the waves in the midst of the storm, He declares to us today Peace be still! No it’s not peace from the storm, but peace in the midst of the storm! God wants us to know that he has not forsaken us. He doesn’t slumber and He doesn’t sleep. He is not powerless against these ills. His word

reassures us that everything, and I do mean everything, is going to be alright! For those of us who are followers of Christ, remember that “*no weapon formed against us will prosper!*”

Jesus has given us His Peace! What a blessed assurance knowing His Peace will still our hearts no matter what may come! We can be troubled on every side but not be distressed, Perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed. Why? Because Jesus has given us His Peace. Not like the peace that the world giveth, but His Peace, The Peace of God that passeth all understanding!