

The Ark
Finding Peace Troubled World
April 4, 2018

*St. John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in me you might have **peace**. In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

***Amplified:** I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer (take courage, be confident, certain, undaunted)! For I have overcome the world (I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.)*

How is it possible to experience peace in a world filled with uncertainties and dangers?

. **Peace** - "eirene" (pronounced: e-ree-nee) means peace, harmony, tranquility, and health. (put on screen)

Originally the word meant "a state of peace in contrast to war"; however, gradually it denoted a peaceful attitude. It came to be understood as an inner peace, tranquility or peace of mind.

This word is used over 90 times in the New Testament.

*St. John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you **that in me** you might have **peace**.* Notice that this peace can be found "In

Christ". If we are to live in peace and power, we must learn to live in "In Christ." What does this mean? Let's look at a couple of other scriptures that will help us understand:

At that time (when that day comes) you will know for yourselves that I am in My Father and you are in Me and I am in you (John 14:29 Amplified).

Jesus is discussing His departure... after the resurrection, and the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT. When He was on earth, the Holy Spirit dwelt in Jesus only. However, when Jesus returned to Heaven, He sent that same Holy Spirit to live in the believer. When we "believe" on Jesus, we are "born" of the Spirit of God and the same Holy Spirit makes His home in our born-again Spirit (John 3).

Jesus was saying: "I draw my life from the Father, You draw your life from me and my spirit lives in your". This is a great Mystery:

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

With the Holy Spirit within us, we can always have hope of "Glory" which is the manifested (understandable) presence of God.

Acts 17:28 NKJV For in Him we live and move and have our being.

There is much more said about being "In Christ" in John 14-15-16-17, however, the beginning of living in peace is understanding that God is in you and with you ALWAYS.

John 16:33 Amplified: I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer (take courage, be confident, certain, undaunted)! For I have overcome the world (I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.)

Not just peace, but perfect, complete peace. In the three chapters that encompass this discourse (John 14-15-16) Jesus express his desire for his disciples to learn to live in a state of "peace" **three times in the verse I just quoted:**

(John 16:27-29 Amplified).Peace I leave with you; My own peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimated and cowardly and unsettled). You heard Me tell you, I am going away and I am coming back to you. If you really loved

Me, you would have been glad because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater and mightier than I am. And now I have told you this before it occurs so that when it does take place you may believe and have faith in and rely on Me.

John 14:27 Amplified *Peace I leave with you;*

My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

Notice that two of these verses give us the instruction: "Do not let your heart be troubled". This instruction is also given in the very first verse of chapter 14:

St. John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Amplified: Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely also on Me.

Verse 1 of chapter 14 Jesus makes two things very clear about peace:

- It is your responsibility to control your attitude (heart).
- Peace is tied to your faith, confidence and trust in

Jesus

- **Believing is a choice.** It's easy to believe during good times, but now Jesus is preparing his disciples to retain their faith, even in the face of what appears to be total disaster and an impossible situation.

Peace is a part of the Character of God

Peace is the third fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. I believe the "fruit of the Spirit", is the "character of God" produced inside us by the indwelling Holy Spirit, and it is progressive. It begins with love. Not just any love, but God's love within.

We enter a love relationship with God and suddenly our entire outlook and attitude of life changes.

As we move in God's love, we find a joy that is not natural. I define joy as the ability to look beyond your circumstances to the promise. As we "look beyond" our attitude changes from one of despair or discouragement to one of "peace". An attitude of quiet confidence that God will deliver, provide and sustain us.

Romans 15:13 NKJV Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notice the progression in this verse.

Let's return to our theme verse:

John 16:33 Amplified: I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer (take courage, be confident, certain, undaunted)! For I have overcome the world (I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.)

The key to this peace seems to be **"these things"**, which had been spoken to the disciples in this discourse.

- They were about to face an entirely new environment.
- Jesus was about to go to the cross.
- He knew that life as they had known it would never be exactly the same.

In this setting, Jesus assured his disciples that they could experience peace. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, I wonder if the disciples remembered this statement: **"I have overcome the world"**. Just ahead Jesus knew they would need something to hold to, something that would inspire and anchor their faith. That something was His Peace

In our world we often face challenges and crisis that would cause us to lose our peace.

Let's consider some of the "things" Jesus had spoken to his disciples that would inspire them to draw into Him and experience this new attitude of tranquil confidence and power in the midst of terrifying circumstances.

"These things" were mentioned in four verses in this discourse, for four reasons:

1. That your joy may be full.

*St. John 15: 11. I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and **overflowing**.* (Joy, the ability to look beyond to the promise) In the next few hours it would be necessary for the disciples to look beyond the circumstances and remember the words and promise of Jesus! How about you? Do you need to look beyond?

2. That you might not get offended

*St. John 16:1 I have spoken these things to you that you may **not be offended**.* Circumstances of life often offend us. Offense robs us of our peace. The "things" Jesus taught in this discourse will help us overcome offense.

3. That you would remember in times of trouble

*St. John 16:4 I have spoken these things to you so that you **will remember in time of trouble**.* In times of trouble, it is

important to remember what God has said. I think of the disciples (Mark 4:35-41) who had been with Jesus all day, hearing him teach, Hearing his command to enter a boat and go to the other side of the lake, and then out in their boat...Jesus asleep in the rear....the storm threatening their lives....they forgot three things:

What He said: Vs.35 *"Let us cross over to the other side".*

Who Jesus was.

His power...

Jesus wanted to equip his disciples for a time of despair. He wants to equip you also. In times of trouble we must not forget who Jesus is; what He has said or His power to deliver!

4. That you might enjoy peace

St. John 16:33 I have spoken these things to you so that you might have my peace. _How wonderful to live your life in a tranquil state of peace. Is this possible? Well, Jesus said it is.

I invite you to read John 14-15-16-17 and ponder the instruction given by Jesus and draw into His Peace.