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THE CHOICE OF PEACE

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The Greek word most often translated *peace* in the New Testament is “eirene”, which means security, tranquility, safety, harmony, quietness, stillness and to be undisturbed. It is this peace that Jesus spoke of in John 14:27 when He said, *“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.”* Here the word “heart” refers to everything about you that constitutes your inner being, including thoughts and emotions. The word “troubled” means to be agitated or stirred up. A quiet undisturbed pool of water is a perfect picture of what Jesus meant when He said, *“My peace [stillness, quietness of spirit, sense of calm, tranquility, and security] I leave with you.”*

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Our Lord made it clear that His peace cannot be obtained from the world system, because what the world offers is not real peace. It is, rather, a false sense of security based entirely upon things external, things that are in a constant state of change, rather than upon God Who never changes. The peace of God is not natural, but supernatural. He also made it clear that real peace must be RECEIVED. The peace of Jesus, that sense of security that comes from God, can be experienced and enjoyed by any Christian, at any time, in any situation - but only by making a choice. It is not passive. It is not something that happens to you apart from your choosing. Peace results from making a deliberate choice to look to God in faith. Jesus said, LET not your heart be troubled (disturbed), neither LET it be afraid. He was saying do not allow your heart to be troubled and fearful. Instead, turn your eyes upon Jesus and CHOOSE to RECEIVE His free gift of peace. It is not necessary to pray and beg for peace in your mind and heart, and it will not help. All that is necessary is to reach out and take what is rightfully yours as a child of God.

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It is important to understand that the peace Jesus offers is not just the absence of trials and chaos. Also it should not be confused with the relief that comes as a result of being delivered from adverse circumstances. The peace Jesus gives is internal, not external. It is inner calm, security, and stillness that comes from focus upon God IN the storm - not the relief that comes from being delivered FROM the storm. Relief from a trial, when it finally comes, is always welcomed and wonderful, but peace of heart and mind is possible and available to the child of God long before relief ever comes. All that is necessary is to look to Jesus and receive. Ephesians 2:14 tells us, *“For HE is our peace...”* Isaiah 26:3 declares, *“Thou wilt keep [guard] him in perfect [constant] peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”*

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Dear Christian, it is God’s will that you have peace in your heart and mind, even in the midst of challenging conditions and circumstances, even in the pressure of seemingly overwhelming responsibility. 1 Corinthians 14:33 tells us, *“For God is not the author of confusion [instability], but of peace...”* In Romans 15:13 Paul wrote, *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace*

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in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

But then comes the question, "Yes, but how? How do I experience the peace of God in my heart when things around me are the way they are? How can I possibly be calm in my mind and emotions while facing these overwhelming circumstances and responsibilities? How can the waters of my life not be stirred up when I am dealing with this kind of pressure?" The answer is to resist and refuse satan's temptation to live in fear and to look away to HIM Who is our peace. You may consider the circumstances, yes, but never allow them to have the final word. Philippians 4:7 assures us that as we look to Him, *"...the peace of God, which passeth [transcends and stands against] all understanding [logic and reason], shall keep [protect] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

David wrote in Psalm 4:8, *"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."* Dear child of God, if you are passing through some turbulent waters, I can assure you on the authority of God's Word that He is going to bring you through safely to the other side. You WILL experience relief, in His time, as you trust Him by faith. But, until that time comes, you can have quietness and assurance in your heart and mind by simply looking to Jesus and receiving HIS peace. Romans 8:6 tells us, *"...to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* So, right now, yield yourself and your situation to the control of the Holy Spirit and receive the peace of God in your heart, as a free gift, just like you did your salvation. "Lord Jesus, I trust You to speak to the wind and waves on my behalf, but until You do, I thank You for Your peace in my heart. In Your Name, I thank You. Amen."

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

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