

# The Gospel of John

## The Promise of True Peace

### John 14:27

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This morning we are continuing in the Gospel of John. Open your Bible, if you will, to the 14th chapter of John.

Jesus has already made several promises to His disciples while in the upper room in this chapter and He is going to make several more.

- The promise of a mansion or room in His Father's eternal house in heaven.
- The promise that the Lord will come and take His own to be with Him in the place that He's prepared for them.
- The promise that all of heaven's resources are available if we ask according to His will and in His name.
- The promise that the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will dwell within us for eternity.
- The promise that the eternal life He gives us is of Himself.
- The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Now I want to draw your attention to verse 27 where there is yet another amazing promise.

#### **The promise of true peace.**

What do the scriptures say? You shall know the truth and the truth shall what? **(Pause)**  
**Set you free!** Free from worldly deception and free from the anxieties of this world.

#### **Stand and Read Scripture**

##### **John 14:27 (NASB)**

***27 Peace I leave with you; My 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 fearful.***

#### **Prayer**

#### **BODY:**

So let's start by looking at the nature of peace.

#### **I. THE NATURE OF PEACE.**

##### **John 14:27a (NASB)**

## 27 Peace I leave with you;...

When we're talking about peace, what are we talking about exactly?

First there is peace that the world seeks for and cannot find. Peace in the world is considered to be a time when things are going well. When there are no problems in your life. But peace on earth is only a temporal peace while everyone is reloading their guns in order to prepare for the next conflict.

The peace that Jesus is referring to is a **true** peace. A peace that we can truly experience in this world.

There are two aspects to this peace: one is objective (it is fact-it is a peace that resides outside of you) and one is subjective (it is opinion-it is a peace that resides inside of you).

What do I mean by that?

The objective part is that this peace is a gift. It is not a command. God's peace allows us to have peace in our lives even when the world has fallen upside down upon us. That is because we know that we have had our sins forgiven because of Christ's death on the cross. Jesus made peace by taking on our punishment in full, and we are reconciled, and we now have peace with God forever.

That is an external, eternal reality, never to change. That is objective peace with God.

But that objective peace also provides for us a **subjective peace, an internal peace**, a sense of goodness, trust, contentment, tranquility, confidence, and well-being. It is a gift of knowing and realizing a true peace in our lives that the world cannot experience.

It is a peace that not only protects you from anxiety, and fear, and doubt, and despair; but it is a peace that triumphs over everything with courage, confidence, and contentment. So that is the kind of peace our Lord is saying: **"I leave you this peace."**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Long ago a man wanted to find the perfect picture of peace. However, after an extensive search, he was unable to find one to his satisfaction. So he decided to promote a contest to produce this masterpiece. The challenge stirred the imagination of artists everywhere, and paintings arrived from far and wide. Finally the day of arrived to reveal their works. The judges uncovered one peaceful scene after another, while the viewers clapped and cheered.

The tensions grew. Now only two pictures remained.

As a judge pulled the cover from the first of them, a hush fell over the crowd.

A mirror-smooth lake reflected lacy, green birches under the soft blush of the evening sky. Along the grassy shore, a flock of sheep grazed undisturbed. Surely this was the winner.

Then the judge uncovered the final painting, and the crowd gasped in surprise.

**Could this be peace?**

A deafening waterfall cascaded down a very steep rocky cliff. The crowd could almost **feel** its cold, penetrating spray. Stormy-gray clouds threatened to explode at any moment with lightning, wind, and rain. But in the midst of the thundering noises and bitter chill, a spindly tree clung to the rocks at the edge of the falls. One of its branches reached out in front of the violent waters as if senselessly seeking to experience its full power.

A little bird had built a nest in the elbow of that branch. Content and undisturbed in her stormy surroundings, she rested on her eggs. And with her eyes closed and her wings ready to cover her little ones, she manifested a peace that prevailed over all of the earthly turmoil.

The believer who places his or her full confidence in a loving God and is thankful in every circumstance will possess a supernatural peace. An inner calm will dominate the heart. He will know peace—his heart and mind are “guarded” by it—despite the tempest raging without. No one, especially those outside of Christ, will be able to fathom that peace. To most, it will remain a mystery how someone can be so serene in the midst of turmoil.

Note that *peaceful* doesn't mean “easy.” Jesus never promised easy; He only promised help. In fact, He told us to expect tribulation.

### **John 16:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

and we are to expect trials...

### **James 1:2-4 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

But He also said that, if we called on Him, He would give us the “peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension”.

### **Philippians 4:6-7 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **II. THE SOURCE OF PEACE.**

### **John 14:27b (NASB)**

...**My** peace I give to you;...

In a world of lies our source for spiritual truth comes only from God. The peace that He gives is His own peace: Jesus says it is "**My peace**"!

What is fascinating to me is that at the very time that our Lord presents this peace to His disciples, He is at the most distressing moment in His life. He is leaving the world in just a few hours through the means of execution on a cross. He realizes that and He knows the excruciating details of it. He has lived through them in anticipation by His

omniscience a thousand, thousand times. He knows He will not only be physically crucified, but that He will be separated from His Father and He will be punished for all the sins of all the people through all of human history who will ever believe. Yet He is in perfect peace.

Where did that peace come from? Well, essentially, it came from His perfect trust in the Father. Peace is connected to trust. His trust in the Father was so clear and so complete that **Hebrews 12:2** says that Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him".

He realized the importance of what He was about to do. Yet the pain and agony was still there. In the garden that night He was sweating blood in the agony. When He was whipped He felt the pain. He fell under the weight of the cross. He felt the pain of being nailed to the cross. Peace does not mean easy. But it does mean contentment.

Jesus gave His disciples peace based on the truth that He has overcome the world.

### **John 16:33 (NASB)**

**<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."**

Peace has little to do with external surroundings. Many believe that peace is defined as the absence of trouble. They refuse to face the problems in their lives because they believe that they can find peace by avoiding them.

**But true peace is not the absence of trouble; it is the presence of God!**

Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, so, if we are allowing the Spirit of God to rule in our lives, we will experience His peace. To be spiritually minded brings life and peace.

We have the **God** of peace, we have the **Lord** of peace; and we have the fruit of the **Spirit** which is love, joy, peace. Again, this is the essence of the Trinity that dwells in each believer. Their presence assures eternal life and generates divine peace in our lives.

### **III. THE CONTRAST TO PEACE.**

#### **John 14:27c (NASB)**

**...not as the world gives do I give to you...**

The world has never held the answer to true peace. There has never been a peace treaty that was never broken. People want peace in their marriages, families, workplaces, country, and world.

The world will offer you peace through many forms of escapism... drugs, alcohol, immoral relationships, and constant entertainment. It is sought through all forms of pleasure, self-satisfaction, and positive thinking.

The peace that comes from being in a right relationship with God is not the peace of this world. The world's peace depends on having favorable circumstances. If things are going well, then we feel peaceful. When things go awry, the peace quickly goes away.

God's supernatural peace surpasses natural understanding. A cancer patient who experiences a remission of the disease may proclaim, "I am so thankful to God!" That is

praise. A cancer patient who is dying and in pain may calmly say, "Everything is all right. I have peace in my heart." That is "**the peace that passes all understanding.**"

We have seen the **nature of peace**, the **source of peace**, and the **contrast to peace**. Now there is one more important feature: **The Pursuit of Peace**. You say, "Wait a minute. What do you mean the pursuit of peace? You just said this peace is a gift. Not a command. He said, "**I am giving you peace. I am leaving you peace, It is My peace.**" What do you mean, **the pursuit of peace?**"

Well, look how Jesus concludes verse 27:

#### **IV. THE PURSUIT OF PEACE.**

##### **John 14:27d.(NASB)**

...Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Even with all these incredible promises of peace, **is it not** reality, folks, that we live a lot of our lives **devoid** of peace? **Do I hear an amen?** **(Pause)** That's what I thought.

We have to talk about reality here. Does it seem strange to say you are **given** a promise but then you are **commanded** to do something? It should be no more strange than to say you have a bank account with all the money you need. Why don't you go withdraw some of it?

This is consistent with everything our Lord has promised. There is always some action required on our part.

- He promised us, "**If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it**", but to access that, you must **ask** in My name."
- He promises us the truths written in Scripture. But to access that, you have to "**Study to show yourself approved unto God.**" You have to search the Scripture.
- He promises us the "**indwelling of the Holy Spirit**", but we are commanded to walk in the Spirit and avoid the lusts of the flesh.
- The Lord promised salvation and eternal life to His people, but that is inherited only if we "**love Him and keep His commandments**".

This is why Jesus came to this earth. To teach us the truth from His Father and to die on the cross for our salvation. We must seek the **true** spiritual peace that Jesus gave to us. **It is eternal.** Any peace that we seek in this world is just temporal.

Listen to how Matthew puts it...

##### **Matthew 6:24-27 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

You see, in order to have true peace, you must trust and serve God. And then he continues...

<sup>25</sup> "**For this reason** I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.* Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, that they do not

sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup> And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life?

Then listen to how he finishes...

### **Matthew 6:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

So when you seek His righteousness, peace will find you. Don't worry; pursue righteousness and you will find peace.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The Apostle Paul knew this peace.

### **Philippians 4:11-13 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Paul had been imprisoned, stoned, beaten with rods, received thirty-nine lashes five times from the Jews, left for dead, and many other perils because of his love for the Lord. Yet in all this, his heart was kept in perfect peace.

God took the initiative in pursuing **peace** with us by sending His Son to earth. Jesus lived a perfect life. His **crucifixion** paid for the sins of all who would trust in Him. His **resurrection** assures us that...

- God has accepted Christ's sacrifice for our sins,
- that there is life after death,
- and that Christ is with us in the present.

Peace with God means our consciences are cleared. By the grace of God our sins have been taken away and it has been replaced by the righteousness of Christ.

Peace with God also allows the Christian to live without fear of death or eternity. **Our last breath on earth will be our first breath in heaven!**

Human beings were created to live in peace with God. Sin destroyed that peace and still destroys it for everyone who refuses Jesus' offer of salvation. However, anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord, believes in his heart that Jesus is the only way to God, and is willing to surrender to Him as Savior and Lord by obeying His commands, can experience **true peace with God!**

**He is Lord.**