

**Sermon Notes July / August / September**

# **PEACE**

**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”**

**John 14:27 NKJV**

**Dear Friends,**

**We are in the times when anxiety and uncertainty are on the rise and we don't know what will come next or what is around the corner but Jesus had told his friends the words in John 14:27 above to prepare their minds for such situations. Where do I go from here may be a question you are faced with at the moment. Our world today is filled with news of war, crises, political instability and unrest, mass destruction of lives from violence, homelessness, terrorism, family unrest, poverty and starvation, domestic violence and the list seems to be non ending. These situations may create anxiety, fear and confusion in us. You may also feel unrest about what your future may hold, your career path, getting a mortgage and the rising mortgage costs, making your monthly regular payments, your health, relationships etc. We want to hold on to something sure and in concrete but the answer is only in the secure love of Jesus for us unto the end and it is this sure love of Jesus for us that gives us peace. It may even be something emotional like been held in a grip of shame and guilt that may be creating anxious thoughts in you. The Good news is that Jesus died to show us how much he loves and gave up himself so**

**we could have freedom from guilt and shame and are secure in this deep love for Jesus for us. Ephesians 3:17-19. Thoughts that are rooted in anxiety and cause you to be always anxious should have no place in the life of a child of God. With the right steps you can work through negative thoughts and anxious emotions.**

**1. Instead of fixating your thoughts on negativity turn the focus on God. Each time you have thoughts of anxiety and fear which are unhelpful think about God and His goodness. Focusing your thoughts on God and giving your worries to God will also give you Peace. Remember your most anxious thoughts are known by God already and you can trust he is able to help you.**

**2. Remember that God knows the end from the Beginning. Isaiah 46:10 tells us that God is 'Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure' Isaiah 46:10.**

**Whatever difficulties you are in right now, it is important to remember his love for you and trust that 'with God all things are possible' as Jesus will always be ahead of us in all our situations, he knows the end from the beginning and the beginning from the end. Don't worry what the rest of this year holds for us because Jesus has gone ahead of us into the year. Finding and knowing Jesus is the way to true peace. Jesus love is constant and does not change so is his peace constant and does not fail.**

**3. “She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).” John 20:15-16**

**Where in lies the answer, when we don’t know. Yes, we usually cannot anticipate what is coming next. Mary found her answers in Jesus, the Teacher.**

**Finding and knowing Jesus is the way to true peace. The answers can only be found in Jesus as we trust him with the outcomes. You may not know what the outcome will be in a certain situations, but you can trust God that he make things right and so you can have peace. It is fine to invite others into your pain when we are disappointed, a problem half shared with the right person is half solved says a quote. It is good to pray with others. It is fine to share your story and discuss your thoughts. It is great to seek counsel but most importantly it is important that we seek Jesus, the Teacher and invite him into every detail of our lives if must have peace. You cannot have peace when you seek your souls gratification in worldly pleasures but instead seek the Lord with an earnest heart.**

**“Mathew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”**

**Matthew 6:33-34 KJV**

**“Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the**

**LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.” Psalms 7:4**

**Seek Jesus counsels and direction for your life’s journey for then you have peace that you are moving in the right direction. Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah in 2 chronicles 20:2-15 chronicles sought God when they faced enemies and God delivered them and gave them Peace. Seek to know God’s words and ways when you face problems and challenges. Seek to know God’s voice and wisdom in situations you face and you will have peace from overwhelming thoughts. Paul gave us a guide of what we should always be thinking about- “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate on these things. Philipians 4:8**

**4. Seek to praise God for his good works in your life and in the lives of others. Things that were once shameful and painful are now made new in you because of the love of Jesus. Sing of God’s praise to him. Tell him that you appreciate all the great things he has done for you and he will do more exceedingly more than you ask or imagine. Sing about his faithfulness and his past victories in the past . Worship the Lord for how great he is and that you look to him as he is your confidence is in his strength. Psalm 59:16.**

**5. We have also been called to keep peace. It is a peace that seeks resolution of conflicts with patience, love, understanding and wisdom and metting out justice rightly. We should not confront conflicts in destructive, revengeful or vindictive ways. We should not return violence for violence as revenge is never an unending downward cycle. It is this kind of peace we should pray as nations are in war, as the world experiences instability and trauma. Refuse to be an agent of strife and division but rather be an ambassador of peace. The Lord will fight for you and you will hold your peace.**

**6. You can always call on The Holy Spirit our helper, teacher, comforter and guide to always help in time of need. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you as you pray and he will give you peace. Peace Be Still. “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans14:7**

**Further Bible Study Scriptures:**

**Psalm 125:1-5, Psalm 138:8, Isaiah 55:6-9, Mathew 5:9, Mathew 6:19-21, Mathew 6:33,24:1-28, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 1:36-38, John 14:12-16, John 16:7, John 16:33, Acts 17:27-31, Romans 8:6 -10, Galatians 5:22-24, Phil 1:2, Phil 4:4-9, 1 Thess 5:23-24, 2 Thess 3:16, 1Peter 1:3-4.**

**We invite you to make Jesus the Lord ,saviour and friend of your life and becoming God’s child. Admit your mistakes and be willing to let God give you a new beginning.**

**Believe that the Lord Jesus is your Savior and He died on the cross and ressurected to save you. Confess your sins through prayer and invite Jesus Christ into your life.**

**Dear Lord Jesus, I am sorry for all my wrong doings, please come into my heart and live forever. I receive you as my Lord and saviour. Through Jesus I have eternal life and I am born again. Thank you Jesus. Amen**

**We encourage you to read your Bible from now on, talk to God in prayer, join a church and fellowship with other Christians to encourage your faith.**

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