

Peace

The Road To Victory

These are days when the enemy of our souls is feverishly at work among God's people with the subtlest attacks. Satan's tactics are most often a barrage of relatively small, frustrating things designed to keep us off balance, to confuse, and if possible, to frighten us away from God's best plan for our lives. He intends to rob us of the peace of God and replace it with a thousand little fears (and some big ones). Very often he succeeds only too well in keeping us relatively fruitless with such tactics. He knows that fear will always drive out faith, and that without faith it is impossible to please God. But God's way is *peace and victory*. Praise the Lord, He has the antidote for every attack of Satan. The Word says, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee*" (Isa. 26:3).

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the poise and quiet confidence that Jesus had in all kinds of situations? Whether He was pressed upon day and night by crowds of people clamoring to be healed, or found Himself suddenly responsible for the physical feeding of thousands in a desert place, Jesus always met the problem with a perfectly calm spirit. Then He proceeded to draw upon the Power that dwelt within Him to do whatever was necessary to meet the need of the hour.

Oh, but you say, Jesus was the Son of God. I'm just an ordinary person. How can I have the calm and peace that Jesus had in times like these? Well, first of all, Jesus said *you should have this peace*. He bequeathed it to you: "*My peace I give unto you...*" He told us in John 14, "*...let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*"

Yes, you say, I see it is promised, but how do I actually GET this kind of peace? You get it in exactly the same way you got it after you were saved and Jesus washed all your sins away — by faith in His promises! You become a happy, rejoicing Christian as the peace of God floods your soul. And this peace is lasting and real, until the cloud of sin comes in one day and blocks out your fellowship with Him. There the cloud and darkness remains until the sin (whatever it is) is dealt with and is under the Blood, confessed and forsaken. God's peace floods your soul again.

Sometimes as mature Christians, we find ourselves falling prey to the more "refined" sins— sins of spiritual pride, neglect of prayer and the Word, or indulgence in worry and anxiety. Maybe it's the feverish accumulation of "things" that we don't need. These can creep in and do just as effective a job of robbing us of our fellowship and peace with God as the old worldly sins used to do. We fail to remember that ANY deviation from the known will of God for our lives is SIN.

Now, which does God hate the most, the sin of adultery on the part of a sinner, or the sin of worry on the part of a Christian whom God has commanded to "Be anxious for nothing"? People do not expect anything else from a lost sinner, but they look with hope to the Christian, to see if this Christianity really works. When they see frustration, fretting, furrowed brows, and even going-to-pieces-under-pressure in Christians, they turn away, sadly disillusioned. They had a right to expect much more, for Jesus Himself has promised it to you and to me - PERFECT PEACE!

Many of us put stumbling blocks (by our actions and often our talk) in the way of a brother, when Romans 14:13 forbids it. In the seventeenth verse, we are told the Kingdom of God is not in man-made rules or material things, but in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

There we have it again: when we do something God has forbidden, righteousness and peace and joy fly out the window! The only way to get it back is to repent, and believe His promise that He will substitute His peace for your anxiety if you will obey Him and cast all your care on Him, *'for he careth for you'* (1 Peter 5:7). Tell Him humbly that you are sorry for the sin of anxiety when He has said, "be anxious for nothing." Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you with the precious Blood of Jesus.

Has your "perfect peace" been blunted, diminished, or disappeared altogether? What hath God said? *"Great peace have they which love Thy law, and nothing shall offend them"* (Psalm 119:165). Truly live in the Word of God; ask Him to help you love it more, and illuminate it to you.

God has commanded us in Psalm 34:14 to SEEK peace and PURSUE it. How? What is the context here? Begin at the preceding verse and read: *"Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and do good."* There it is, summed up in a nutshell, the lesson this message has tried to teach.

"Do good" - that means be diligent in everything that you know He wants you to do. Try getting up early enough in the morning to have an uninterrupted time with Him. "Them that seek me early shall find me." Begin your time with praise and thanksgiving - read the wonderful 100th Psalm often, then refresh yourself with the 103rd, putting into those first five verses all the blessings in your life He is urging you to thank Him for. Live in the promises of God *"that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature..."* Read 2 Peter 1:2-10 for his great sermon on how to keep in victory and peace. Diligently deal with everything that you find missing in your life that God says should be there as the Fruit of the Spirit. If you want victory enough to pay the price of simple obedience, yield to Him and you can have *"peace like a river"* continually. God is able and willing. Will you let Him help you?

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