

# PEACE IN PROBLEM TIMES

## John 14:27-31

- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how “peace-filled” is my life?*
- Many people live without hardly any peace in their lives, which is a miserable way to live.
- Jesus - *“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”* (John 10:10)
- **We won’t experience the vibrant and victorious life Jesus offers us until we learn how to live peace-filled lives.**
- Jesus - *“I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.”* (John 14:27)
- **What does it take for us to live a “Peace-Filled life”?**

### *Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:*

#### **PLUGGING INTO THE LORD’S PRESENCE**

- Jesus – *“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace.”* (John 16:33)
- **Since Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6-7), we experience His peace when we “plug into” His presence.**
- Jesus – *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”* (John 15:4)
- **Activities that help us “abide in the Lord” include: 1) Praying daily, 2) Reading God’s Word daily, 3) Attending Church faithfully, 4) Attending a *Life Group* weekly, 5) Listening to Christian music and 6) Living godly.**
- *“In Your presence (O Lord) is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* (Psalm 16:11)

### *Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:*

#### **MAKING THANKFULNESS A DAILY PRACTICE**

- *“Let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. . . . And always be thankful.”* (Colossians 3:15)
- **We should spend time daily thanking the Lord for who He is to us, what He’s done for us, and what He’s promised to us.**
- *“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances...”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- **When we’re focused on being grateful God becomes bigger in our mind and our problems become smaller - which brings peace to our heart and mind.**

### *Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:*

#### **TRUSTING IN THE LORD’S PROVISION**

- **When we worry all or much of the time we are robbing ourselves of peace.**

- *“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace.”* (Philippians 4:6-7)
- **The Lord is able and willing to provide for those needs when we put our faith and trust in Him.**
- Paul - *“This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19)

***Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:***

**LIVING BY THE LORD'S PRINCIPLES**

- **The Hebrew word for peace is “shalom” which means “to be whole or complete.”**
  - **We can't be “whole or complete” and we won't have peace in our hearts until the Lord is first in our lives.**
  - Jesus - *“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.”* (Matthew 6:33)
- **The Greek word for peace is “eirene” which means “to be in agreement or harmony.”**
  - **When we live in disobedience we are stating that we don't agree with God's way of doing things, and therefore we won't be recipients of His peace.**
  - *“There is no peace for the wicked,” says the Lord.”* (Isaiah 48:22)
  - **We can't have peace in our heart and life without obedience to the Lord.**
  - *“Since we have been made right with God by our faith (in Jesus Christ), we have peace with God.”* (Romans 5:1)
  - **When we are at “peace with God” we will have the “peace of God” in our lives.**

***Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:***

**RELYING ON THE LORD'S PROMISES**

- Jesus - *“Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again...I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.”* (John 14:28-29)
- **Jesus left His Disciples and now resides in Heaven (Acts 1:9-11); but as promised He still lives daily in His follower's lives through His Spirit (John 14:16-17).**
- The Lord – *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* (Hebrews 13:5)
- *“(God) Himself has said, ‘I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you – I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake you nor let you down, nor relax my hold on you. I will not, I will not, I will not!’”* (Hebrews 13:5 AMP)
- Jesus – *“Don't be troubled or afraid.”* (John 14:27)
- **Distress and Fear are what primarily rob us of peace in our hearts and lives (Matthew 6:25-33, 2 Timothy 1:7)**
- **Distress and Fear causes us to become frail, frustrated and failures (1 Timothy 5:23, 2 Timothy 1:6-12), and robs us of our peace.**

- The Lord - *“This is My command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)
- **We don’t ever have to be overcome by our fears because we have the presence and power of the Lord available to us in our lives.**
- *“Because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.”*  
(Philippians 4:7 CEV)
- ***What steps do I need to take to better have the “peace of the Lord” in my life?***

**DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK** - “Lord, I want to live a “peace-filled life.” So, help me to seek Your presence, express gratitude for my blessings, trust in Your provision, live by Your principles, and believe Your promises so that I will live a “peace-filled life” rather than a “fear-filled” or “worry-filled” life. In the name of Jesus.”