

Living the Serenity Prayer #2
“To accept the things I cannot change”
ACCEPTANCE

Joshua 1:1-9; Luke 22:39-46

Remember from last week:

Worldly Peace depends upon the circumstances around you.
Spiritual Peace is something inside you.
You can't earn, achieve or buy serenity. It is a **gift** from God.

How do we deal with difficulties?

Worry and control are natural from us.

Frustration, Anger and Hopelessness

Don't sin by letting anger control you. Think about it overnight and remain silent. (Psalm 4:4)

Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and⁶ my God! Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember you— (Psalms 42:5)

Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back. (Proverbs 29:11)

Acceptance is not resignation.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

Acceptance is supernatural.

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

*If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land;
²⁰but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.”
(Isaiah 1:19-20)*