

THIS WEEK,,, IN THE APOSTLE JOHN'S WRITINGS,,, WE HEAR JESUS' CONCERN,,, AND HIS PREPARATION,,, OF HIS DISCIPLES,,, FOR HIS SOON DEPARTURE,,, THROUGH HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS.

THE DISCIPLES HAD BEEN WITH JESUS FOR A LONG TIME. THEY HAD SEEN HIS MIRACLES,,, THE FEEDING OF THE 5000 MEN,,, PLUS THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN,,, THEY HAD HEARD JESUS PREACH ABOUT THE KINGDOM,,, WHICH HE HAD USHERED IN,,, YET,,, THEY FAILED TO UNDERSTAND,,, THE PURPOSE OF JESUS' COMING.

SO JESUS,,, ONCE AGAIN,,, SETS THE STAGE,,, IN ORDER TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS TO THEM,,, REGARDING HIS DEATH,,, ACCENSION INTO HEAVEN AND THE PROMISED COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. WHAT JESUS SAID,,, THAT WOULD PREPARE THEM,,, FOR THE COMING EVENTS,,, IS:

“WHOEVER LOVES ME,,, WILL KEEP MY WORD,,, AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM,,, AND WE WILL COME TO HIM,,, AND MAKE OUR DWELLING WITH HIM. WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE ME,,, DOES NOT KEEP MY WORDS; YET THE WORD YOU HEAR,,, IS NOT MINE,,, BUT THAT OF MY FATHER.”

NOW,,, THIS WAS PROBABLY NOT THE ANSWER THEY WERE LOOKING FOR,,, BUT,,, IT WAS ONE THEY COULD UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE,,, ONCE JESUS WAS GONE,,, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD COME.

WHOEVER LOVES ME,,, WILL KEEP MY WORD!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, JESUS IS TALKING TO MORE THAN HIS DISCIPLES.

HE'S SPEAKING TO EVERY CHRISTIAN,,, IN EVERY CHURCH,,, DOWN THROUGH THE AGES,,, ALL THE WAY TO US TODAY!

IN JESUS' MINISTRY,, BY USING PARABLES ,, HE TAUGHT,, WHAT WE SHOULD DO,, AS ANY FATHER WOULD DO,, WITH HIS OWN CHILDREN. **FIRST,, WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER,, WITHIN THE CHURCH,, BY OUR THOUGHTS,, AND,, BY WHAT WE SAY AND DO.** JESUS ALSO TAUGHT US,, **TO CARE FOR THE POOR,, TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES AND TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DISPISE US.**

WE ARE TO PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINKING,, THE LUST OF THE EYES,, AND,, OUR SELF-SEEKING,, SELFISH DESIRES.

WHEN WE DO THIS,,

WE ARE SUBMITTING TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST,, AND THROUGH FAITH,, WE WILL RECEIVE HIS GRACE,, AND HIS FORGIVENESS,, OF OUR SINS.

THE PATTERN FOR LIFE,, THAT JESUS GIVES TO US,, IS BASED UPON LOVE! JESUS SAID: **"YOU SHOULD SHOW YOUR LOVE,, BY FOLLOWING MY WORD".**

TODAY,, THERE'S A GREAT WEAKNESS WITHIN THE CHURCH,, AS A WHOLE AND WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,, THERE'S A LACK OF FULFILLMENT.

THIS IS BECAUSE,, THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF TODAY'S CHRISTIAN'S,, ARE NOT READING OR HEARING GOD'S WORD,, ON A REGULAR BASIS.

SO IT ONLY FIGURES,, THAT IN LIFE,, THERE WOULD BE: UNANSWERED,, FAITH BASED,, QUESTIONS,, LIKE;

- (*) IF WE DON'T READ HIS WORD,, HOW CAN WE KEEP HIS WORD?
- (*) IF WE DON'T HEAR HIS WORD,, HOW CAN WE LIVE HIS WORD?
- (*) IF WE DON'T READ AND HEAR HIS WORD,, REGULARLY,, HOW CAN WE HAVE A STRONG LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH SPIRITUAL GROWTH TAKING PLACE?

IF WE READ,,, HEAR AND KEEP HIS WORD,,, THEN,,, AS JESUS SAID; ***“MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM,,, AND I WILL COME TO HIM,,, AND MAKE OUR DWELLING IN HIM”.***

NOW,,, JESUS ISN'T IMPLYING SINLESSNESS,,, FOR AS SCRIPTURE SAYS;

“WE HAVE ALL SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD”.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, WE ARE ALL SINNERS! BUT,,, WE ARE SINNERS,,, WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE,,, JUST LIKE THE DISCIPLES.

HOWEVER,,, WE ARE EXPECTED TO AVOID TEMPTATION,,, TO FOLLOW JESUS' WORD,,, AND TO CHOOSE TO TURN AWAY FROM SINFUL WAYS.

WE WILL STILL SEE TEMPTATIONS,,, AND FROM TIME TO TIME,,, WE WILL FALL! BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO DO IT SO OFTEN,,, DO WE?

SO,,, REMEMBER THIS; “ IT'S DURING THESE TIMES OF TEMPTATION,,, THAT WE CAN RESPOND TO THE WORDS OF JESUS,,, WHEN HE SAID:

“IN OUR WEAKNESS,,, HE BECOMES STRONG”.

WHEN WE'RE TEMPTED,,, WE CALL OUT TO JESUS,,, FOR THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME,,,AND WE ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, TO TAKE THE TEMPTATION AWAY FROM US.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, IT'S JESUS,,, WHO GIVES US THE POWER TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION,,, BY HIS HOLY WORD!

SO,,, WHY DO WE CALL OUT TO JESUS” AND WHY DOES JESUS ANSWER US? IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE OF JESUS,,, WHERE HE SAID;

“THE FATHER AND I,,, HAVE COME AND MADE OUR DWELLING,,, OUR HOME,,, IN YOU!”

EVER SINCE PENTECOST,,, BY YOUR FAITH IN JESUS,,, THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, ALSO DWELLS IN YOU!

SO,,, THE WHOLE OF THE TRINITY,,, (***THE FATHER,,, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT***) LOVES YOU,,, SO VERY MUCH,,, THAT IT RESIDES WITHIN YOU AND IT IS SO CONCERNED ABOUT EVERY ONE OF YOU,,, THAT IT IS ACTIVE IN EVERY PART OF YOUR DAILY LIFE,,, AND,,, IN YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

EVERY TIME,,, THAT YOU FEEL MOVED TO PRAISE GOD,,, FOR HIS GOODNESS,,, OR TO THANK HIM FOR A BLESSING,,, OR EVEN TO JUST SAY: *AMEN* IN PUBLIC,,, THAT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING IN YOUR LIFE. AND IT IS PROOF,,, THAT GOD HAS MADE HIS HOME WITHIN YOU,,, AND HE REMAINS ACTIVE IN EVERY PART OF YOUR DAILY LIFE.

JUST LIKE THE DISCIPLES,,, WE CAN FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE, ,, AND BE FILLED WITH THE SAME PEACE THAT THEY RECEIVED. JESUS SAID:

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU,,, MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU. NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES,,, DO I GIVE IT TO YOU”.

IF IT ISN'T THE PEACE OF THE WORLD,,, THAT JESUS GIVES TO US,,, THEN,,, WHAT KIND OF PEACE IS IT?

THE PEACE THAT JESUS GIVES US,,, *IS THE GIFT OF AN INHERITANCE!* THE PEACE THAT JESUS GIVES TO TRUE BELIEVERS,,, *IS: AN OTHER WORLDLY PEACE! A PEACE THAT THIS WORLD CANNOT GIVE!*

YOU SEE,,, THE WORLD'S PEACE,,, USUALLY COMES AFTER A BLOODY,,, DEATH FILLED,,, WAR INVOLVING MANY PEOPLE.

THE PEACE THAT I'M TALKING ABOUT,,, COMES TO US *THROUGH THE PERFECT SACRAFICE OF ONE MAN,,, THROUGH HIS WOUNDS,,, HIS BROKEN BODY AND HIS SHED BLOOD,,, FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS. THAT ONE MAN IS: OUR LORD,,, JESUS CHRIST!* WHO SUFFERED AND DIED,,, FOR ALL OF US,,, SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO.

THIS IS AN UNSHAKABLE AND ETERNAL PEACE,,, THAT EXCEEDS OUR MINDS ABILITY TO COMPREHEND IT!

THIS PEACE BEGINS WHEN,,, INDIVIDUALLY,,, WE MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST,,, TO SEEK HIS FORGIVENESS AND TO RECEIVE HIS SAVING GRACE,,, INTO OUR HEARTS BY FAITH.

THEN,,, WE WILL HAVE PEACE WITH GOD AND IT'S OUR 1ST EXPERIENCE OF JESUS' PEACE,,, WHICH WILL RESULT IN OUR HAVING A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER,,, THROUGH HIS SON.

SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT JESUS GIVES US HIS PEACE,,, WHEN HE SAID:

HE HAS MADE PEACE,,, WITH HIS BLOOD,,, AND HE IS OUR PEACE!

JESUS GAVE US A PEACE,,, THAT THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE SAYING: “**DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED OR AFRAID**”!

BUT,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, WE CAN ALLOW THE LORD'S PEACE,,, TO BE DISTURBED,,, BY THE WORLD AND IT'S DISTRESSING THINGS!

LIKE THE WORLD'S TRIALS,,, TRIBULATIONS,,, AND FEARS,,, AND WE CAN LOSE SLEEP,,, BY WORRY,,, AND ANXIETY.

BUT JESUS' WORD,,, WHICH WE'RE TO OBEY,,, SAYS IN: (**MATTHEW 6: 25-32**)

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR LIFE,,, WHAT YOU EAT,,, OR DRINK,,, OR ABOUT YOUR BODY,,, WHAT YOU WILL WEAR. IS NOT LIFE MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOOD? AND THE BODY MORE IMPORTANT THAN CLOTHES? WHO OF YOU,,, BY WORRYING,,, CAN ADD A SINGLE HOUR TO HIS LIFE? OH YOU,,, OF LITTLE FAITH. YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS THAT YOU NEED THEM!

ST PAUL,,, DURING HIS MINISTRY,,, ENDURED EVERY KIND OF TRIAL AND TRIBULATION,,, UNTIL HE WAS MARTYRED!

AND IN (**2 CORINTHIAN'S**) ST. PAUL WROTE:

FOR CHRISTS SAKE,,, WE WERE DISTRESSED IN HARDSHIPS,,, UNDER GREAT PRESSURE BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE,,, THAT WE DISPAIRED,,, EVEN OF LIFE. WE FELT THE SENTENCE OF DEATH,,, THAT WE MIGHT RELY ON GOD. HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM SUCH DEADLY PERIL.

ST PAUL KNEW,, THAT THE WORLD,, AND THE
DEVIL,, WANT TO TAKE AWAY,,

THE PEACE OF CHRIST!

SO,, I CLOSE TODAY,, WITH **THESE HOLY SPIRIT
INSPIRED WORDS OF PAUL**,, IN (***PHILIPPIANS 4: 8-9***)
WHERE ST PAUL WROTE:

THE CURE FOR MAINTAINING THE PEACE OF JESUS!

***“DO NOT BE ANXIOUS,, FEARFUL ABOUT ANYTHING
BUT IN EVERYTHING,, BY PRAYER AND PETITION,,
WITH THANKSGIVING,, PRESENT YOUR REQUEST TO
GOD,, AND THE PEACE OF GOD,, WHICH TRANSENDS
ALL UNDERSTANDING,, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS
AND YOUR MINDS,, IN CHRIST JESUS.”***

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,, AND OF THE SON,,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

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1,390 Wds, 6 Pgs

+++AMEN+++

1492 Wds, 6 Pages

