

new PEACE

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:17)

Jesus shared with His disciples the events that were about to unfold. He wanted to ensure they were not afraid so He told them He was leaving them **HIS** peace. The word “peace” we often hear people use is not a Biblical peace. They are referring to a feeling when there is an absence of conflict or trouble. This peace is dictated by our external environment, it is fickle and fleeting. This peace is not consistent nor stable.

What’s interesting about this verse, is Jesus shared this knowing they were about to face nothing but conflict and trouble. The peace Jesus was talking about can only be found in Him. It keeps us anchored when the world around us feels like it’s falling apart. This peace can’t be stolen, it’s not changed by what our eyes see.

The chaos may happen around us but His peace ensures it doesn’t happen in us.

Jesus promises that, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” We find peace in who He is and what He did for us, we are reminded of it in the testimonies of those around us who have walked through the fire and came out the other side not smelling like smoke. This peace keeps us focused, engaged, unwavering and hopeful, and in the midst of trouble you can continue to praise Jesus and proclaim His goodness and faithfulness.

It’s possible to cry because you are experiencing a painful season, and still have peace. It’s possible to have questions, and still have peace. It’s possible to be frustrated, and still have peace. It’s possible to experience a loss, and still have peace. It’s possible to have a human moment, and still have peace.

One of the names Jesus is called is the “Prince of Peace.” He isn’t called that because He immediately makes circumstances “feel good”

rather He is called that because by Him being our savior we have a confidence that no matter what happens, He is with us, He is for us, He doesn't leave us nor forsake us, He fights battles on our behalf, He will provide and He can do the impossible.

This year, exchange the world's definition of peace for the new peace that can only be found in Jesus.

PRAYER

FATHER, I ASK THAT YOU EXCHANGE MY UNDERSTANDING OF PEACE FOR THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM BEING ONE WITH CHRIST. MAY PEACE BE AN ANCHOR THAT HOLDS ME IN PLACE WHEN THE STORMS RAGE AROUND ME. PROTECT MY HEART FROM TAKING ON FEAR AND ANXIETY, SILENCE VOICES THAT ARE TELLING ME YOU WON'T COME THROUGH FOR ME. CONTINUE TO SHOW ME THE MOMENTS I AM NOT ROOTED IN PEACE, WHEN THINGS SEEM CHAOTIC LEAD ME BY STILL WATERS AND PROVIDE ME REST FOR MY SOUL. MAY MY PEACE BE CONTAGIOUS AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS WHERE THIS PEACE COMES FROM. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.