

Weekly Devotions: THE REFINING FIRE OF TRIALS 16

Come to Jesus and You will Find Peace

In the last 35 years because of my cancers, I have had doctors telling me that I was going to die; that I would eventually go deaf and blind and lose the ability to swallow. In the face of bad news, what I need most is peace, an inner calm and confidence that though my world has collapsed around me, there is no need to be anxious or afraid.

But where do we go to get this peace without which we are likely to plunge into the abyss of depression or insanity? Peace is not something we can buy off the shelves or order online. Peace is also not something we can devise or produce. The One who can give us peace is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9: 6) and the only place to experience this peace is in His presence.

For me, spending time with our Lord reflecting on who He is and what He had done on the Cross always gives me a sense of hope, peace and even joy. After every medical test and consultation, I would head straight home to come into His presence. Picturing myself at the foot of the cross always gives me hope and the assurance that my Lord who had died for me will certainly help me.

Read John 14: 25-31; 16: 32-33

On the night of His arrest, Jesus told his disciples: *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* (John 14: 27) He was preparing them for what was ahead; He would be put to death, they too would be persecuted. He promised them His peace would be in their hearts. Jesus did not promise to keep the disciples from troubles, He promised to give them peace in their troubles.

The apostle John reiterated that the peace Jesus gave was different from the peace of the world. It is not the absence of problems but an inner calm in spite of external danger. This peace will sustain God's people even in the midst of the worst troubles.

Questions to Ponder

1. What 2 things did Jesus promise His disciples (26-27) and how are they real in your life?
2. What are some reasons a believer may not experience God's peace in troubled times and how can one experience God's peace?
3. What did Jesus say about this present life and what assurance did He give us about life in this world (John 16: 33)? What sort of troubles do we face in the world as followers of Christ and how does Jesus' promise encourage you?