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True Peace Comes from the Holy Ghost!

Scripture: John 14:27 -Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

We live in a troubled world. There is no shortage of situations and events that threaten to steal our peace. As if we do not have enough to worry about, the news media present us with a continuous stream of all that is wrong in the world. It seems as if every day we hear about another natural disaster, mass shooting, or heinous crime. Surrounded by so much negativity, we often find ourselves worried about our own safety and security. **How can we rest in God's peace under these circumstances?** Our God offers peace in the midst of chaos. His peace doesn't change with the circumstances; it is secure in spite of the circumstances.

It is important to remember that God's peace transcends our present reality. God is the one who created this peace and He gives it to us through Jesus, by the Holy Ghost. Jesus purchased our forgiveness, our salvation when He died for us on the cross. He paid the price for our forgiveness, our peace with God. Our peace is founded on the belief that God is able to work all things together for our good. We must not allow the turmoil around us to make us call God's sovereignty into question. In His wisdom, God allows evil to exist in our world. This means that we may indeed experience trials and suffering. God's Word does not promise us that life will always be easy.

However, the Resurrection reminds us that our Lord has overcome death itself. His victory over death gives us hope that we will live forever with Him. How liberating it is to realize that, in Christ, there is no more reason to fear death. **Why should we fear any lesser threat?** We are completely secure in Jesus. Come what may, we can trust that God is in control, that He is just, and that our future is in good hands.

The end result of the Holy Ghost's work in our lives is deep and lasting peace. Unlike worldly peace, which is usually defined as the absence of conflict, this peace is confident assurance in any circumstance; with Christ's peace, we have no need to fear the present or the future. If your life is full of stress, allow the Holy Ghost to fill you with Christ peace. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Peace is a promised gift from God. Jesus promised His disciples He would give them peace. *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27). Christ's "peace" refers to a hope and reassurance that goes beyond what a fallen world can offer. Obedience to the gospel and subsequent faithfulness to the Christian life results in profound peace for the human soul. We were created to love and worship God, and we will never be content with anything else. Doubtless, this godly peace can be contrasted with the temporary distractions and pleasures of sin, which ultimately fail to satisfy one's need for God. Not only did He bring peace to individuals and between people, Christ Himself became our peace. Isaiah prophesied the coming of the **Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6).

The peace Jesus offers is amazing! When we choose to entrust our lives into His care, profound relief and strong confidence flood our souls. In light of His loving concern for us we are challenged to allow God to carry our anxieties (1 Peter 5:7). Our task is simply to maintain a spirit of thankfulness while offering our requests to God in prayer. When we do this, we have this blessed promise: *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7). Jesus' peace is the harmony and calmness of body, mind, and spirit that supersedes earthly circumstances.

Jesus is our peace in a troubled world. We often find ourselves in stormy situations in which our faith is tested. Our challenge is to hold on to our faith in God and trust in His ability to keep us secure. Nothing the world can throw at us is greater than the One who has overcome the world. In this realization we can find and maintain true and lasting peace.

Paul challenges us to be content in whatever state we find ourselves (Philippians 4:11). While it is certainly commendable to strive for excellence, we should realize there are limitations to our time and strength. Setting priorities and managing our time accordingly is essential if we are to live in peace as God intends. We should value our relationships with God and others above all else. **God's peace keeps our hearts and minds secure in this troubled world!**