

Final Instructions from Christ

Peace - the depth of our relationship with Christ

John 14-16

Peace - we all desire it but at what price?

Patrick Henry *"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God!"* It was a call to war.

Christ said *"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 14:27"*

Final Instructions in the Upper Room and on the way to Gethsemane

Love - the measure of our relationship with Christ

Peace - the depth of our relationship with Christ

Joy - the fruit of our relationship with Christ.

What is this peace Christ gives?

Peace can refer to harmonious relationship between men or nations, friendliness, order, quietness or even relaxation and contentment. All these fall short of the Christian meaning of an inner calm oblivious to what the circumstance are around us.

Fear - there is no peace in fear

Worry - it is fear in the future tense

These two stem from

1. **False assumptions** like: God owes us only good,...
2. **False sources of peace** - wealth, health, people

What are our reasons for peace? - John 14:1-31

A. We believe in God

Called the God of Peace *Philippians 4:9, Romans 15:33, 16:20, 1Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:20*

B. We believe in Christ

Heralded at birth - the Prince of Peace, Peace to the World
Died to pay the price - In His resurrection He is our peace

C. We have a sure eternity

Destination - Home created by Christ for us

Companionship on the way - I will come

Sure path - I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

D. We have a family

Not Orphans - Parent, brother, Seal of Adoption

Not alone - The Holy Spirit and Christ dwell within

What is so special about this Peace?

Jesus said it is His Peace

Not always peace on earth. *Matthew 10:34-36,*

John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

His peace is not determined by circumstances but by faith.

It is a gift (note it is a fruit of the Spirit) Not earned

Not the Peace of the World

Based on the strength of man

Based on violence - *Cicero, the Roman orator and author, claimed, "Peace is liberty in tranquility." Most often, this tranquility is won at the expense of others, and more times than not, is the fruit of violence.*

It is not even understood by the world, *Philippians 4:7*

What is the path to peace?

1. It begins with peace with God

Our sins have made us enemies with God *James 4:4*

In Christ we are reconciled to God *2 Corinthians 5:18*

2. It grows in relation to our relationship in Christ

Make Him the Lord of your life - *2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.* also *Romans 15:13*

Wait upon Him - His timing is always perfect *Lamentation 3:25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.*

3. It is sustained in depth of our relationship with Christ

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6

What is stealing your peace?

Fears that need to be surrendered

Worry about the future

"Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's peace."

False assumptions about your "rights"

False sources of peace - wealth, health, relationships