



In Me You May Have Peace
John 14:27; 16:33
January 5, 2020

God wants us to have peace (Romans 14:17; 16:13). We want it too, and many people are living their lives in search of peace, consciously or not. At Christmas we read that the birth of the Savior would mean peace on earth (Luke 2:8-14) and noticed a woman who found peace by being saved from her sins and having her relationship with God restored (Luke 7:36-50). But how do we assimilate that peace into our hearts and lives?

It is important to recognize that Peace is found in Christ (John 16:33), and so that is where we should seek it. His peace can keep our hearts from being troubled and keep us from being afraid (John 14:27). We do not automatically come to have his peace, however (“*may have peace*”). Instead, we have to pursue it (2 Timothy 2:22; 2 Peter 3:14; cf. Psalm 34:12-14).

To do this, we need to distinguish between the peace of Christ and the peace of the world. They are not the same (John 14:27). First, the *nature* of the peace is different. A secular understanding of peace may be limited to the absence of war and conflict. But Christ’s peace, like the idea of peace in the Old Testament, is a positive sense of well-being based on our confidence that God will ultimately make everything okay.

Second, the *pathway* to peace is also different. People in the world often seek peace by: 1) trying to limit undesirable circumstances that rob them of peace, 2) trying to increase desirable circumstances that they think will give them peace, or 3) covering up their anxiety with their “drug” of choice.

In contrast, Jesus teaches us to seek peace “in me” (John 16:33). Peace can be found in Christ. Having had our relationship with God restored through Christ, we now seek to more fully experience that peace *in him* (Colossians 2:6-7). As we remain in him and participate in his life, we come to share and enjoy his peace. Here are four Scriptures that may help us do so:

2 Peter 1:2. Grace and peace can be ours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. The knowledge referred to is not merely an intellectual understanding but also includes experiencing him (a relationship), submitting to him and obeying him.

Galatians 5:22-23. In Christ we have been given the Holy Spirit. As we learn to live by the Spirit, he produces peace in us. Jesus seems to have the Spirit in mind when he says he is leaving peace with us (John 14:26, see v. 26). We will explore another connection between peace and the Holy Spirit in a few weeks.

Colossians 3:15. We are told to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Who or what rules your heart currently? Fear? Anger? A difficult person? Perhaps it’s time for a change of regime.

Philippians 4:6-7. Praying is the right response to the things that make us anxious. Note that this includes both petitions and thanksgiving. This results in God’s peace, which then does the all-important work of guarding our hearts and minds in Christ.

The account of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee teaches us that Jesus can bring peace and we are to have faith (Mark 4:35-41). May the PEACE memory device (Peace can be found in Christ), the Bible quotation (“in me you may have peace” — John 16:33) or the story of Jesus creating peace out of chaos in Mark 4 remind you to seek peace in Jesus.

