

## Peace Be With You – Today, Tomorrow and Every Day

Today is Thanksgiving Day. Many of us won't be at work today. Instead we gather to share a special meal with family. As I sit at the computer with my morning coffee, the rest of the family asleep upstairs, it is a great time to feel the peaceful thankfulness of this day in my heart. We even had a gentle rain overnight, a welcome relief from the drought conditions our part of the country has been experiencing. Like the rain that came without our knowledge, God showers us with many blessings, many of which we don't even realize.

Most of our week is full of stress and responsibilities. At times life seems unbearable, especially if we try to go it alone, shouldering everything ourselves. It is a big world out there. So many things that cause anxiety for us are beyond our control. And even if something is our responsibility, we have limitations as to our ability – if we try to do it ourselves.

Thanksgiving Day was actually a day the people of the United States set aside to thank God for the many blessings. As a nation we made it a holiday as a relief from our normal routine. We set the calendar so that people could spend the day with family, enjoying the biggest meal of the year. Good advice.

But with God we can extend the peaceful feeling to any day. *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).* Did you catch the phrase, “not as the world gives?” Even this early morning, the day set aside for man-made peace, the pace is about to pick up. This morning will be anything but peaceful. As soon as Kathy awakens she'll head for the kitchen for meal preparation. There will be all kinds of “honey-do” tasks for me, preparing for the arrival of the family. The day's rest will be short-lived, after the dishes are done and people are settled down in easy chairs for conversation or sleeping in front of the televised football game. Man-made peace is temporary, and it must be earned.



God's peace is the result of our relationship with Him. It is a gift from God. Can we put our issues of life in His hands? Can we trust that the path for our lives that He laid out is with wisdom? Can we acknowledge that Jesus died for our sins, so we don't need to beat ourselves up over our shortcomings? And we are not limited by our human abilities – with God, all things are possible.

God's peace is a totally different dimension than worldly peace. Our natural instincts tell us we should be upset over things, yet God offers us a different way of life. He offers us peace through our faith. It is up to us whether or not we accept that peace. On this Thanksgiving Day, tomorrow and every day we can put our lives in God's hands. And for that I am thankful.

Thanks be to God. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. We put our lives in your hands. We accept the peace you offer us. We are thankful for your many blessings, especially the sense of peace we have as we put our genuine trust in You. Amen.