

Divine Peace

The disciples were terrified. Their leader, Jesus Christ, had been crucified on the cross. He was dead. Was it all over? The disciples' spirit was crushed, and they were confused. They were afraid. They hid behind locked doors in fear of their own lives. Then, it happened. No door was opened, but Jesus appeared in the flesh right before their eyes. He said to them, *"Peace be with you."* (John 20:19). The peace that Jesus spoke about was not worldly, but a divine peace that can calm our troubled souls.

"This is the peace that God works between Himself and man through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is our peace in the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life. This is the peace of being one with God." (quotes from Portals of Prayer, April 13, 2023 devotion).

Jesus gave mankind a great gift on the evening of His resurrection. In addition to the Salvation for us all, He gave us the gift of peace.



We all seek peace in our lives. We may enjoy a quiet morning coffee before anyone else gets up in our household. We may enjoy the serenity of a mountaintop experience, a panoramic lakefront view, or the gentle rocking as you sit in a fishing boat in the middle of the lake. Those are wonderful times but temporary experiences. The serenity calms us for the moment and helps us to recharge our batteries. But then, we come down from the mountain or paddle back to shore and face the reality of life.

God's peace of forgiveness of sins and Salvation is permanent. It doesn't end with returning from a week of vacation or finishing our cup of coffee. Knowing that our future is secure can give us peace amid a crowd or even in the chaos of a difficult situation. We have to trust that God is in control and preparing a place for us. And knowing that Jesus is with us during the struggles we face in our lives can give us a sense of peace.

After the appearance of Jesus, the disciples knew there would be tough times ahead of them, but Jesus' presence demonstrated that He was still with them. Their peace was beyond this world, but instead, they knew their eternal future was assured. Jesus had overcome death, and so would the disciples. So will all believers. We may not fully understand it, but Jesus promised peace. We don't understand Heaven until we experience it. *The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).*

As we attend worship services and read God's Word, we are reminded of God's promises. They are not empty statements but a pledge to be with us in whatever we face. And they tell us Jesus will return for us to bring us to Heaven. That is divine peace. Peace be with you.

The Bible Says: *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you (John 14:27).*

Here's the Point: Even in difficult times, we can be at peace because Jesus is with us, and our eternal future is assured.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the peace beyond our understanding. We trust You to carry us through whatever we face. Amen.