NOVEMBER 2018





LIVING IN PERFECT PEACE

"Peace I leave with you; My perfect peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid." (John 14:27 AMP)

INTRODUCTION

The world we live in is full of turmoil, stress and fear. The Bible says it is possible to live in perfect peace, no matter what is happening around us. The world promises us a "pseudo peace" which is an artificial, temporary peace. Many try to escape their anxieties and seek peace through alcohol, drugs or various forms of entertainment and practices. The prophet Jeremiah warned about this saying, "They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when there is **no peace**." (Jer. 8:11 NLT) Jesus promised us "Peace ... not as the world gives." (John14:27) True, lasting peace is available when we seek the giver of peace and practice what He teaches!

WHAT IS PEACE?

The dictionary describes peace as tranquility or serenity; freedom of mind from annoyance, distraction anxiety and obsessions. Merriam-Webster says peace is "freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts and emotions." Many suffer from tormenting thoughts and emotions and don't know where to turn. God wants us to be free from torment by receiving His peace.

THE SOURCE OF PEACE

First of all we need to know God wants us to have peace. 2 Thessalonians tells us

"may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. (3:16 NLT) Notice, He is the "Lord of Peace." A familiar passage from the book of Isaiah quoted at Christmas tells us "his name shall be called... the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) If He is the Lord of Peace and the Prince of Peace, then he must be our source of peace. Did you know Jesus suffered and died so we could have peace right now? "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5 NKJV) We no longer have to be in turmoil because Jesus has given us peace!

ACCESSING PEACE

How can we access the peace that is available? First we need to give our lives over to God. Listen to these words from Job: "Submit to God, and you will have peace; then things will go well for you. Listen to his instructions, and store them in your heart." (Job 22:21 NLT) In the New Testament, we read "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1 NKJV) Know that God is not mad at us. He settled our sin problem on the cross. The first step to perfect peace is to have faith in Christ and trust in his salvation. Secondly, we must bring our worries and anxieties to God. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace..."

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Program times are EST

(Philippians 4:6-7 NLT) Similarly, the Apostle Peter tells us to "cast the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully." (I Peter 5:7 AMP) Bringing our cares to God is a step of faith we have to take. If we believe God cares for us, then we can trust Him to take care of our needs and concerns. Finally, we can maintain peace in our minds at all times by focusing

on God's Promises: "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" (Isaiah 26:3 NLT) Receiving and maintaining perfect peace is not automatic, but as we submit to God, trust Him and keep our thoughts on Him, we can experience peace no matter what is happening in our lives.

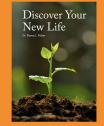
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Chi-Miigwetch to everyone who attended and supported our Gala. The generous sponsorship of many churches, non-profits, businesses and families made this celebration possible! It was an evening of



excellence showcasing the work of Spirit Alive and building bridges in our community. Over \$20,000 was raised for TV airtime! Thank you to our faithful partners who have invested in this ministry over the years. Your support is helping us share the Gospel and change lives across Canada. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." (Philippians 1:3-5)

