



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 25, 2025

To Know Christ...

Jesus is the perfect example of walking by the Spirit in every conceivable way. How do you typically define "peace"? The English dictionaries usually describe peace as the absence of turmoil or a calm tranquility. The *peace* they reference is fully dependent upon the circumstances surrounding the situation. What good is being able to have peace only when nothing is working against you? However, the spiritual peace that Jesus speaks about is tailor-made for any situation or circumstance in this life. Jesus was speaking to His eleven Apostles in the upper room and said, **"Peace I leave with you; My 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 fearful."** (John 14:27) His peace allows us to cease from being fearful and troubled. Jesus is about to endure the most difficult situations of His life in the next 20 hours, yet He still had peace! How does this occur while being bombarded by the evil motives and plans of those aiming to destroy Him?

The saints in Thessalonica were at a very pivotal moment for the congregation. Some who called themselves disciples were not willing to work, even though they had the capability to do so. They wanted other disciples of Jesus to pay for or provide their meals; they were lazy and undisciplined. Faithful disciples would have to lovingly confront those who were making excuses for their ungodly decisions. If anyone refused to obey the instruction given in Second Thessalonians (3:14-16), the faithful must no longer even associate with those rebellious souls. Yet, Paul writes, **"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!"** This spiritual peace is not dependent upon circumstance; it can be granted in EVERY circumstance, even when confrontation is a must! How is peace found in the most trying times like these?

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace! (Galatians 5:22) Jesus said, **"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."** (John 14:15) He also said, **"You are My Friends if you will do what I command you."** (John 15:14) Scripture even says, **"For this is the love of God,**

that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3) When Jesus is the Friend we genuinely love, we will keep His commands. And we will even find joy in doing so, not a burden. We find love, joy, and then we are granted peace! Jesus & the faithful saints in Thessalonica found peace in every circumstance because they knew to humbly submit to their Lord, no matter how difficult the situation would be. Peace comes in knowing we are honoring our Lord by faithful responses. Others might be filled with hate or resentment toward us, but our Master is pleased with us. Therefore, He grants us spiritual peace no matter what difficulties may come, if we walk in love and joy. If we are lacking in peace, the first question is ... are we rejoicing in the commands of the Lord to live by them? We will never find peace without honoring them. Spiritual Peace is granted by the Lord, because He stands in control of everything, but do we believe it? (The peace of God is a “soldier like” guard! ... take a look ... Philippians 4:4-7)

- Carey Terry