

PEACE THAT PASSES UNDERSTANDING

A Different Kind Of Peace

- I. **Can you have peace no matter what state you're in or is your peace at the mercy of your circumstances?**
 - A. Philippians 4:1,4,6-Stand fast, rejoice in the Lord always, be careful for nothing – Stand immovable, Be glad always, Don't be troubled about anything – This is the exact opposite of being upset, distressed, heavy, and troubled
 1. **Stand fast**-Stand firm, stand immovable, steadfast in mind, does not waiver, persist; **Rejoice**-Be glad; Be **careful** for nothing-Troubled with cares
 - B. Philippians 4:6-It doesn't say be troubled by what you don't have; It says by prayer, supplication and thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God
 1. Mark 11:24-When you pray believe you receive-1 John 5:14-15-If we ask according to His will we know he hears us and if we know He hears you, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE the petitions desired of him – If you know you have it then enter into thanksgiving, trust, don't be troubled
- II. **Philippians 4:7, John 14:27-It is the peace of God; Jesus gave us His peace and not peace like the world gives – It's a different kind of peace** (John 14:27-CEV-I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give; GW-I don't give you the kind of peace that the world gives; JB-My gift is nothing like the peace of the world)
 - A. Peace that the world gives is circumstantial (connected to your circumstances) and it's understandable; Jesus' peace is not circumstantial (connected to your circumstances) and it's not understandable (it passes understanding)
 1. The kind of peace I have is not circumstantial-*John 14:27-AMP-Let my perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge*
 - a. John 14:27-TLB-I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives
 2. Philippians 4:7-The kind of peace I have is not understandable
 - a. This peace is something that passes all **understanding**-the intellectual faculty, (As you hear this right now you can't intellectually understand how a person wouldn't be troubled/upset in certain situations) – This is peace that passes understanding
 3. The kind of peace that I have is why I don't HAVE TO BE TROUBLED – The kind of peace I have is not at the mercy of my circumstances and the kind of peace I have is not at the mercy of my intellect – My peace works in the midst of any circumstance, my peace works when my intellect doesn't understand it

- B. Isaiah 26:3-My peace comes from my trust and in the middle of bad circumstances I can trust God and have peace and not be troubled
1. Romans 15:13-There's joy and peace in believing not in having good circumstances and I can believe in the middle of bad circumstances and have joy and peace and not be troubled – **Your peace is connected to your trust/faith; if my faith wanes my peace weakens**
 2. If you really are trusting and you really are in faith you'll have a peace about you – If you are troubled you are not trusting – John 14:1
- C. Philippians 4:8-The places you let your mind go has everything to do with whether or not the peace flows
1. Your peace is connected to your faith and the level of your faith is determined by what you feed on through your mind
 - a. Romans 10:17-If you allow your mind to feed on the evil report (the words of the enemy) your faith is going to wane, fear is going to come by hearing those words and you will be troubled and have no peace-1 Samuel 17:11, Jeremiah 49:23-24, Matthew 14:30
 2. Isaiah 26:3-Why is he trusting? Because he kept his mind stayed on the Lord and fed and what God said and didn't give His mind to the evil report – If you let your mind go and feed on the evil report it will rob you of your faith and without faith/trust you will have no peace
 - a. Because he kept his mind stayed on the Lord his faith was strong and his trust supplied him with peace
- D. Philippians 4:9-Do what you learned, received, heard and saw me do (V1,V4,V6-V8) and the God of peace will be with you
1. The God of peace is everywhere and if you don't do these things that doesn't mean that God's going to forsake you – BUT if you do these things The God of Peace will manifest himself to you and manifest Himself as being with you – If you don't do these things He won't manifest Himself to you and He won't manifest Himself as being with you
 2. This is supposed to be our witness that when everybody is freaking out and coming apart we have the peace that passes all understanding and when you do have it you're going to stand out and it will be a witness of the reality of the God of peace in your life; This is not just something that's available to us, we are called to it, it's our call, it's our life, it's how we are supposed to be living– We should be known for our faith and peace (Isaiah 54:13, Colossians 1:4, Ephesians 1:15-I heard of your faith)
 3. 1 Thessalonians 3:7-Your faith and peace can comfort and encourage somebody else
- E. Jeremiah 30:10, 46:27-They shall be quiet and NONE shall make them afraid – That's a different kind of peace

III. Philippians 4:11-He LEARNED (by practice) in whatever state he was to be content-Satisfied, quiet, not disturbed, having a mind at peace, independent of external circumstances; He's not troubled, by what he doesn't have;

A. He learned to not be troubled no matter what was going on in his life

1. *AMP-For I have learned how to be content satisfied to the point where **I am not disturbed or uneasy or disquieted regardless of my circumstances**; NET-In any circumstance; NIRV-No matter what happens to me; NIV-Whatever the circumstances; GW-In whatever situation I am in*

B. Content doesn't mean that you don't desire more, that you don't desire for the situation to change, it means that the more you don't have yet and the change you don't see yet is not going to determined whether or not you have peace, it's not going to affect your peace

1. Content didn't mean that he wasn't believing God to get out of the prison or that he was fine being in there the rest of his life; Content isn't "not desiring more"; Content is **not** needing more to be at peace; Content doesn't mean he doesn't want out of the prison; it just means he's not going to delay his peace until he gets out; He wanted but not too much
2. I'm not going to wait for my circumstances to change for me to be at peace, that would be walking by sight and if I walk by sight I can't walk in victory – I can be at peace in any circumstance – If you can't be at peace until it changes and then you are walking by sight not by faith

IV. Philippians 4:12-Many don't know how to be abased, how to be hungry, to suffer need & when their circumstances begin to press on them they lose their peace, they get troubled – They don't know how to respond when their circumstances aren't just the way they want them

A. When you're circumstances aren't exactly the way you want them do you know how to be abased?

1. *JB-I know how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of facing either poverty or plenty. I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives within me; WE-No matter how things are, I have learned how to live; VOICE-I know how to survive tight situations*
2. **Know**-Understand, perceive, know how, to be skilled in; **Abased**-Reduce to meaner (poor, wretched) circumstances, to reduce to low condition in life; **Abound**-To excel, to be abundantly furnished with, to have in abundance, to abound in a thing; **Instructed**-Initiate into the mysteries, secret, mystery; **To be hungry**-Suffer want, be needy; **To suffer need**-Lack, be in want

B. This is how you be abased-I'm believing God to come out of this, for this to change but until it does I'll never let it affect my peace, I'll never allow it to trouble me for I know how to be abased

1. **Being abased doesn't mean that you resign yourself to having something that's less than God's best or that's not in line with His will; Being abased means that until you receive His best and walk in the fullness of His will you're going to maintain your peace and not allow yourself to be troubled**

- C. The secret to facing any situation is to NEVER ALLOW IT TO TROUBLE YOU AND STEAL YOUR FAITH & PEACE – That’s the secret to facing it and overcoming it
1. **AMP**-I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation; **ERV**-I’ve learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation; **ICB**-I’ve learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens
 2. I know BOTH how to handle being abased, but I also know how to not stay there (abound); If you’ll learn how to be abased you’ll discover the key to abounding; One of the main ways you don’t stay in the place of abasement is you don’t allow it to rob you of your peace
 3. His contentment/peace is not coming from his abasing or abounding – It’s coming from the God of peace who is with Him
- D. 1 Samuel 1-Hannah didn’t know how to be abased and it wasn’t until she learned how to be abased that she began to abound
1. It can be God’s will for you to have something, but that doesn’t give you a license to be troubled when it’s not there
 - a. Wanting children isn’t a bad thing, but Hannah wants it too much – She’s in covetousness for a good thing and she’s not content, has no peace
 - b. Hebrews 13:5-6, Luke 12-**Covetous**-To desire inordinately; Excessively eager to obtain or possess; You can want something good too bad, you can want something right too much and you want it too much when not having it causes you to be troubled
 2. **You need to learn how to not have it before you can have it; You have to learn how to not have it and not be troubled by not having it**
 - a. She had to learn how to be abased, how to not have what she wanted and be in peace and when she did she abounded
- E. 13-I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me and that includes being careful for nothing and having peace independent of my circumstances