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# Possessing Peace

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MAN is a unique creature. One exercise he possesses is an ability to look into the future. Anticipation is one of our greatest sources of sorrow or joy; other creatures have only the pleasure of the present. Man derives a great deal of delight from contemplation of distant events. This tremendous advantage can be easily abused by a troubled heart and mind. It is tragic to be dominated by the temporal instead of the invisible and eternal. If a futuristic concept is determined by an unhappy spirit or a troubled heart, the present becomes contaminated by the possibility of a distorted future.

For a pleasant future our desire must be subordinated to the will of God. Our submission to the disposals of God's providence is a vital factor in coping with the present and future.

## God's Perfect Peace

He not only owns all available peace, but He is the only One capable of placing it within the human heart and mind. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have fearful of what lies ahead? Has He withdrawn His promise never to leave or forsake me? "Take therefore no thought for tomorrow" (Matthew 6:34). We trust in Him with complete confidence. "It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth Him good" (I Samuel 3:18). Perfect peace can be ours in a world of sin and turmoil.

stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee" (Isaiah 26:3). What does it mean to have our mind stayed on the Lord? He must be the center of our soul. In our environment we see many vainly seeking contentment in things, such as money, social prestige, fame, and pleasure. Only the One Who made us can satisfy the center of our being. Only as our affection is set upon "things above" do we drink of the Fountain of Living Waters. Hear His admonition, "DELIGHT THYSELF." "Delight thyself also in the Lord" (Psalm 37:4). Then and only then will PERFECT PEACE be yours and mine now.

We must recognize that we receive from God's hand whatsoever enters our life. We look beyond all secondary causes and declare "the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it!" (John 18:11)

My future completely rests in God's hand (Psalm 31:15). Has He not graciously cared for me and faithfully supplied my every need up until now? (Philippians 4:19) Then why be one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29, 31),

We are not forbidden to surrender to grief. The next to the shortest verse in the Bible indicates that Christ wept, knowing the coming resurrection of the dead man. We are to have sorrow, but not as others who have no hope. Christ had His cup and so do we. We must also drink it in submission to our Father's will.

It is a definite command! Let not your heart be troubled! Be careful for nothing! It is a sin to worry about anything. We

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## What Prevents It?

This answer is easily arrived at, for the Bible is very clear. It is carefulness (or *anxiety*). "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).

Anxiety is usually promoted by the possibility of a future event. Some spend time on past happenings, not realizing it is a waste of time, for which nothing can be done. How dare we become anxious about the future when our Heavenly Father has already declared and demonstrated his loving concern for all creatures? "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is

determine our personal failure in possessing peace.

## How to Obtain

Few believe and obey God. Otherwise we would have many more Christians attracting sinners to the Savior, Who could produce a real difference in their lives. Here is one of the plain commands of Christ for those who have such need. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). When we come in honesty and submission, things begin to happen. Desires for ourselves are weakened by submission. Our fears are removed by the consolation of His Spirit. In Christ we recognize His unlimited resurrection power to meet all needs of our person and circumstances. We give to Him full responsibility for the outcome of all

happenings. The peace and rest we need is given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ. “I will give you rest.”

Putting into practice God’s commands determines His action of communicating peace. We are told what to do to be rid of anxiety in the fourth chapter of Philippians. How many exercises will you put into practice? “THOSE THINGS, WHICH YE HAVE BOTH LEARNED, AND RECEIVED, AND HEARD, AND SEEN IN ME, DO: AND THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU” (Philippians 4:9).

Notice, in the context, that we are commanded to DO as per His instructions. His commands include getting along with others in cordial fellowship, assisting faithful women, rejoicing always, being anxious about nothing, talking over everything with the Lord in prayer, thanking Him for all things, and thinking about the right things. Be sure to read these instructions in Philippians, chapter four. Why hesitate to practice God’s direction? Could it be that we do not believe or expect God to keep His promise of peace to us? Here we learn action on our part to receive His peace. It is what we DO!

Another course of action is bestowing all our care and anxieties upon the Lord. “Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:7).

### **Benefit of Peace**

When we go into action in the way of obedience, which is the consequence of faith in God’s promises, we will possess a preserved heart and mind. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). That word, “KEEP,” means God will garrison or build a wall around our heart and mind. This is the automatic result of the work of PEACE within us.

One of the greatest truths to be revealed in the Bible is the abiding presence of God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Most people act as though they face all difficulties alone and must depend upon human resources. Where is the God who has promised to never leave or forsake His own? He is the GOD OF PEACE. All genuine peace belongs to Him and is placed inside of us on the basis of our obedience, which is the automatic consequence of believing Him: “Do; and the GOD OF PEACE shall be with you” (Philippians 4:9).

There is absolutely no reason for you as a child of God to lack peace. It is an insult to Deity to worry about anything in the light of your Heavenly Father’s promises and His power to support them. When are you going to stop worrying and start trusting? There is no biblical command for a Christian that cannot be obeyed. “I can do ALL THINGS through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

You now know the exercise of anxiety (disobedience) that prevents your possessing peace. God’s Word is clear as how to obtain peace. You know the work of peace within you. Do you need to find a place of prayer and confess your sin of disobedience, unbelief, anxiety and fear? God will hear your sincere cry and will forgive and cleanse you as a Christian. (I John 1:9)

Christ gives His peace to us: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). This is a repeat of the first verse of this chapter, where we learn that the lack of faith generates trouble. “Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

I am personally responsible for trouble entering my heart and mind. This is a definite command: LET NOT! In no way will I allow my heart to be intimidated or become fearful by being lied to. I know the TRUTH that sets men free.

Truth is to be acted upon. DO! DO! DO! If we believe God’s promises, we will joyfully obey in the strength He has provided for us. The consequence? Read your Bible for a revelation of how great God’s ability is to keep His promises. Keep your knees bent in prayer, telling Him everything in your heart, mind, and circumstances (Philippians 4:6). When trust is exercised in the promises of God, we rest in calm assurance that God’s will, plan, and purpose are going to be realized, which is always for our welfare here on earth and in His presence for eternity.

Friend, don’t live on a lower plain than Christ has prepared for you. He died that you might have peace with His Father and that His peace might dwell within you. Appropriate it for yourself and serve Him with all your heart. The Bible reveals not only His directions, but also His provisions for us to DO them.

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