
LET PEACE RULE YOUR HEARTS

(...and spiritual discernment will be easy)

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“The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness: quietness and assurance forever” (Isa. 32:17).

The Christian must protect the peace of God in their hearts at all costs. Defining the word *peace* will help us understand why. Here are some of its synonyms: *calm, quiet, stillness, tranquility, silence, harmony, serenity, freedom from strife, and reconciliation*. Those who love the true God-given inward peace will gravitate toward those things and people that define and portray it. That peace will *rule* in their hearts by the Holy Spirit (Col. 3:15).

When subjected to disruptive outside influences or internal conflict, we have a choice to either be moved away from peace or to guard it or, better yet, allow it to guard us as the bastion that it is. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Php. 4:6-7). The word “guard” as used here is a military term and refers to the prevention of hostile invasions and this would include any “Trojan horse” invasions. “The peace of God that surpasses all understanding” indicates that it outranks and is superior to all human reasoning, feelings, judgments, and perceptions.

This brings us to a very important point. The peace of God in you will keep you from the human reasoning, feelings, judgments, and perceptions that are ultimately and diabolically designed to allure your soul into a place outside of the “calm, quiet, stillness, tranquility, silence, harmony, serenity, freedom from strife, and reconciliation” that are appropriated in us by the Holy Spirit.

So, any outside information, whatever the source, which is true, good, without bias, and is no lie can be discerned as being just that, and I am not just referring to spiritual truth. If we do not first discern the true nature of a thing with our peace-filled spirits, we *will be* deceived in the battlefield of our minds. For instance, if I spend a lot of time listening to conspiracy theories concerning our government, eventually, I will not only start believing those theories but will start promoting them. This leaves me open to believe other anti-government messages. Our minds should never be open if our spirits are yelling “foul.” As Christians, we should be able to, within one minute of reading something, determine its validity, whether it be a Christian teaching or scientific information. This is not the same as disagreeing with something because it goes against our pet doctrine or biased thinking. You can know in your spirit what is true, good, and without bias and not know any of the facts. However, to do this, *your* mind must first be without bias. It cannot be predisposed with or given over to invalid information or preoccupied with a problem or something that is a source of confusion, grief, or turmoil.

“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him” (1 Jn. 2:27).

The one thing that will keep us from functioning in this New Covenant reality is a pre-existing bias within our minds. A bias is “a preference or an inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment.¹ Here are some synonyms: *prejudice, partiality, unfairness, preconceived notion, foregone conclusion, favoritism, predisposition, and preconception.*

So, for instance, when I read something in an email about a comet named ELenin and how its supposed to pass near the earth by early autumn of this year (2011) and cause catastrophic events, I must listen to the bastion of my soul, God’s peace, first and foremost. If I allow my mind to be convinced by the information first, I will be misled or deceived, become fearful, and possibly become a propagator of false information. This is what I sense in my spirit about this event: (1) ELenin is a comet and not a renegade dwarf star that is 100 times the size of Jupiter as some have falsely claimed. In accordance with the scientific community, the majority of whom do not work for the US government but for universities, the comet is considered to be small. So, to contradict

¹Excerpted from *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* © 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

such claims is not part of a government cover-up or conspiracy. (2) This comet has not and will not do harm to the earth and its inhabitants.

[Addendum: By the end of September 2011, the comet was almost completely taken out by a radiation blast from the sun. It pays to listen to God first because only then can we determine what facts truly reinforce the truth. Not the other way around. God's word is the final word.]

Concerning all the hoopla about the possible planetary alignments of 2012 having a catastrophic impact on earth: first, and foremost, it does not bare witness in my spirit, and secondly, did you know that planetary alignments, from earth's perspective, happen every fifty to sixty years? Guess what, we are still here! A planetary alignment is determined by a straight line between two fixed points. What could be an actual planetary alignment from one point of perspective in our solar system may not be from another point. Enough of that, you get the idea.

Understand that there are demonic spirits that feed off of fear and the information that empowers it. We can discern these spirits before they even get close to us. We can know the origin of any information that comes our way without knowing any of the facts. Then we will be drawn to the valid information and not waste our time with all the hype.

Let's allow the peace of God rule our hearts so that we can objectively discern the true from the false. Are you allowing righteousness to work peace, quietness, and assurance in you or are you allowing lawlessness to work unrest? The devil will use true or false information to bombard our minds in order to steal our peace if we let him. Instead, we can quiet our soul because of the Prince of Peace who dwells in us. Whatever is troubling us, we can be free if we will speak to and command our souls as did the psalmist: "Why are you discouraged, my soul? Why are you so restless? Put your hope in God, because I will still praise him. He is my savior and my God" (Ps. 42:11; GWV). We can tell our minds and emotions: "You will not be anxious because God knows what you have need of before you ask and has already made provision." We have to quiet our souls to receive the wisdom and instructions that release the provision. By doing so, we will gain the wisdom of God that will cause us to pinpoint and cast all our cares on Christ, realizing that we cannot change them but He can.

When patience is allowed to have its perfect (finished, completed) work, we will be perfect (finished, completed) and complete (entire, whole, sound in every way) and have no lack (not falling behind or lagging). The patience referred to in James 1:4 is not correctly represented by our having to agonizingly wait our turn to go use the restroom.

This patience incorporates with it a deep inward contentment with God alone. As the song so appropriately says, Jesus is “everything that my soul ever longed for, everything He promised and so much more.” This is the theme song of the patient, restful, and sound soul.

The End

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