

# Christ, A Constant and Abiding Peace

I've heard it said by those who are getting up in age, "All I really want now is to have peace and quietness in my life." But what does it really mean to have "peace and quietness"? Better yet what about, "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, [that] shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"? Philippians 4:7.

By a closer study of this verse, we may ascertain the answer. Notice that the verse strongly indicates that a person may have peace if the heart and mind is stayed upon Christ Jesus. This being true, then the opposite would also be true. That being, if our hearts and minds are not fixed upon Jesus, we have NO peace. In accepting this paradox as the truth, we then begin to understand much more clearly why we have so little peace in this world. A conclusion firmly supported in Isaiah 57:21, "there is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Those who decidedly choose their own way and refuse to listen to and heed the voice of God will, likewise, have no Godly peace. Further consequences then pursue. God's power to completely take care of their mental, physical, spiritual, or even financial needs will be greatly limited or completely void of His working in their lives. We render ourselves helpless when we refuse to recognize our need of a Saviour, or need of Godly help and healing.

However, once we come to the point of recognizing our weak-human condition, that we need God's redemptive power working in our lives, we also begin to realize a hunger and thirst for spiritual growth that no human being can supply. Our Precious Lord says in Revelation 3:20, "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Christ also pointed out in John 6:35, "I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst."

Friends, daily learn to communicate with your Lord and Saviour. Talk with Him; listen to Him. As we develop this personal relationship with Him, we will recognize our need to depend fully

upon Him and learn to submit wholly to His leading even when we don't fully understand or humanly want to. He will become your Lord—you will develop a deep abiding love for Him that will produce obedience and trust in all areas of our lives. With Christ as our Lord, we don't have to "understand" all things; but, **we must learn to trust His leading in all things!** "For He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the spring of water shall He guide them." Isaiah 49:10.

To have constant and abiding peace in this life, we must then conclude, will depend upon our relationship with God. While Christ walked this earth in human form, He lived in the midst of conflict; yet, His life was a life of peace. This was possible only because no temptation, no trial, no human, no attack of the enemy in any form or fashion could disconnect His personal relationship with His Father! Christ had total and complete trust in His Father; therefore, Father and Son were one even while Christ was here. Jesus made this clear in John 8:29, "He that sent Me is with Me: The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do **always** those things that **please Him.**" (Read John 17:21 as well.) What a tremendous lesson for us here! We must develop such a relationship with God that **we do always those things that please Him!** We must never think we've attained by a simple knowledge of the truth. Truth must be alive and well living inside of us via the Holy Ghost. In doing this, Christ promises us in John 14:27, "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."

Perhaps all this search for peace and quietness in this troubled world applies to YOU as well. Maybe you've asked yourself, "Why?" What is the reason you don't have peace in the midst of this world's storms and turmoil? In our experience we've found that the guilty party, the main offensive culprit, has always been ourselves. To bring this thought closer to "home," YOU, yourself is the problem. That may be difficult to grasp at first thought, but its

true. It is our **love of self** that continually destroys our peace! As long as "self" is alive and in full control, we are constantly engaged in battles. A simple example would be finding out that people are saying unkind things about you behind your back and immediately your feelings are hurt—you feel crushed. Nothing you do, or say, seems to correct the multiple situations occurring as a result of the gossip and you just continue to sink deeper and deeper into self pity/depression—your peace is gone! From this day forward, choose to take the "higher" road. Make Christ your example. Do as He did; as He commanded that we do. We must die to self; empty self out at the foot of the cross and leave it there. Commit every part of your being to Christ. Let Him defend you by taking life's cruel punches Himself. He's big enough to handle them—we are not. And the best news, He wants to handle all life's difficulties and pleasures for us. With Him in the driver's seat of our hearts, we need never to be anxious about anything. No more worrying about what tomorrow will bring; no more pushing and prodding our way to what we perceive is the "top." Be secure in knowing that whatever comes your way, it passed through our Saviour first and He has trusted us with the situation to deal with it in a Godly fashion as He sees fit.

To have true abiding peace, the highest point you must ever strive to reach is at the feet of Jesus. Don't hesitate any longer. It was by divine providence that you are reading this article right now. By faith, follow Christ; listen to His voice speaking to your heart asking you to separate from those worldly pleasures that keep you from abiding fully in His arms. Then experience that peace that passes all understanding even in the midst of a storm. I know that this is a challenge, but it is a challenge worth pursuing if we are to have a "taste" of Heaven here on this earth and be counted worthy to be in the number of Heaven above.

May our Lord continue to richly bless you and yours!

Pastor Kenny, Sister Chris, & your BTLM family!

# Prayer Requests:



*He gives us a chance to love others as He has loved us.*

It has been such a blessing to hear from so many individuals this past month letting us know just how seriously they uphold these prayer requests. Folks, they are serious; they represent just a small fraction of God's human family—the family He gave so very much for. He loves us with an everlasting love. And by praying for the needs of others, He gives us a chance to love others as He has loved us.

The last lady who shared how important these names were to her, said pretty much this: *"Every morning I hold this list up to God in my hands telling God that I don't know these people personally but that He does. And I ask that each prayer request be granted as He sees fit."*

We strongly implore everyone receiving this newsletter to become "prayer warriors" along with us and the dear lady referred to above. And may you be blessed as you pray for a blessing for others.

—Brother Paul, from Nassau, Bahamas, requests your prayer for the success of a new Adventist radio station. Pray that all goes well and that it will be a tremendous blessing in harvesting souls for the Kingdom. "FYI," our "Behold the Lamb Presents" programs are being scheduled to air over this station. —Julia, from Zeigler, IL, requests your prayers. She has been quite sick lately and not able to attend church.

—Please pray for Jean N., of Cheyenne, WY. We mentioned in an earlier request that Jean's husband, Wayne, had recently

passed away. Now Jean has recently been in the hospital for over three weeks with undiagnosed problems. Please lift her and her family up in prayer.

—Jacob R. from Zeigler, IL. Pray for him and his family.

—Mary from Carterville, IL, as she recovers from surgery.

—Sharna W. from WY, as she recovers from surgery.

—PRAISE the Lord for answered prayer for Pastor Kenny's cousin LaRae S. from SC. She is finally doing better and is even planning to try to return part time to work. She needs strength and continued healing.

—Please pray for Sister Chris' family who just lost her cousin Robin. Robin was on our prayer list last month. She was only about 47 years old. The Lord saw fit to let her sleep. Please pray for her children and family left behind.

—Christopher who is being deployed to Afghanistan.

—Mary from TN. She recently lost her husband and financial support. The Lord has

blessed her to sell much of their personal belongings to meet the mortgage. But she needs to sell her home in TN. Please pray for a buyer soon or call us if you may be interested. I think the home is close to Portland, TN. She is also looking for someone to supply her with Spirit of Prophecy books to give away.

—After viewing our Behold the Lamb Presents September 27, John from St.

Lucia called in. He was feeling as if he had no hope in life until he was lifted in Spirit by the message that day. He and Pastor Kenny spoke and prayed together. Please continue to lift him up that he will make right decisions in his life.

—Keep Ed W. from Herrin, IL, in prayer.

—Pray for the Holly family. They have recently lost everything and are currently staying in a temporary home in Marion, IL.

—Bobbie P. from West Frankfort, IL.

—Ashley from Herrin, IL, is requesting prayer for a friend Nikki and family.

—Lorene from Herrin, IL, and family.

—Leisa H. from NC, her daughter Seretha and husband, Shane, and Debbie R. for a job.

—Allen G. from Warrensburg, MO.

—Pray for BTLM's local literature outreach.

—Donita B. from Cheyenne, WY. She has cataract eye surgery coming up followed by knee replacement surgery.

—Pray for Sister Chris' cousins Ann and Sue of NC.

## Behold the Lamb Presents, Satellite TV Outreach Update ...

Praise the Lord, our Behold the Lamb Presents programs are being aired world-wide via 3ABN. Currently, the program is aired every other Tuesday morning at 7a.m. CST and every other Friday at 12 noon CST. We had hoped to have a better schedule this month but have now been told that it will remain the same until December of this year. At that time, our new broadcast schedule, we are told, will be every Monday at 12 noon CST and every Friday at 9 a.m. CST. We are so grateful to see the Lord's direction for this ministry coming to fruition. Please **check your TV guide for airing times**. They will not be advertised as yet in the 3ABN monthly magazine due to the cost of advertising. These programs are NOT the same as the programs we send each month.

And **remember our desperate financial needs**. Our personnel, though meager in number, are hurting financially. Yet, they continue to show up for work as needed! Our camera equipment is still in need of being paid. And now we've been told our sound system is in need of updating. So until this is done, we've currently been asked not to film any music in our sanctuary for the program, as it would not be of adequate quality. That, too, will cost money. **If your unable to give, please pray that God will put our needs on the hearts of those who can and will support this evangelistic effort. This is the heartthrob of our work at BTLM! Evangelize, evangelize, evangelize while it is still day!**

**November 5 & 6, Pastor Kenny and Sister Chris will be speaking in TN, hosted by Eden's Pathway Lifestyle Center/Ben & Lisa Brown. Please contact the center for time and place: 423-338-4144.**