**Let Our Minds Be Stayed On Thee**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Isaiah 26:1-4**

**Sunday Morning**

**February 28, 2021**

**Isaiah 26:1-4**

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. 2 Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. 3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

**The night before His crucifixion Jesus gave His disciples an amazing promise:**

**John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”

Saints, Jesus wasn’t saying that all their conditions would be serene, easy, and comfortable. On the contrary, He was telling them they would have peace of mind and heart even though their circumstances were painful, difficult, and uncertain. And this is the same kind of peace Jesus promises to all of us who belong to Him.

Saints, the peace Christ gives is a settled sense of satisfaction in Him. It’s not dependent upon good conditions but on a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

**2 Thessalonians 3:16**

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all”

We can be confident that no matter what we face in life, He is with us and in us through the Holy Spirit. And one of these days, whether we die or Jesus comes first, all the troubles of this life will be over, and we will be in heaven with Him forever.

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Then everything will be made right just as He promised; but until then, we have His peace within us as we live in this world’s pain and trouble!

**Christ’s peace is not like that which the World Offers**

Saints, this age is not characterized by peace, whether external or internal. People are anxious about their jobs, finances, relationships, and situations because the world cannot give them the peace that transcends circumstances. The only thing it can offer is counterfeits, which falsely promise that peace will come when they can have whatever they want.

**Jesus is the source of this Peace**

**Philippians 4:6-7**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.

Saints, Christ’s peace is not something we can work to attain but a gift freely given to all who belong to Him. It’s actually the gift of Himself that is acquired at salvation.

At that moment, an eternal relationship with Christ is established, and where He is, there is peace. One of the evidences of this relationship with the Prince of Peace is that we become peacemakers

**Matthew 5:9**

“Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God”

**There is a narrow path that Leads to Peace**

The world offers a wide selection of ways to find tranquility, but they are all false. Yet this is the path most people choose. They move from one false hope to the next but are never able to satisfy the gnawing need for peace in their hearts. When Jesus sent His disciples out to proclaim the kingdom of God, He said to them:

**Luke 10:5**

“Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house’”

This verse is a good reminder for us to pray for those whose homes we visit. Although we may not know the circumstances of their lives, the Lord does, and we can pray that they will receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, and experience His amazing peace!

**On the narrow path to peace, there are obstacles that steal Our Peace**

**Show Plowing Illustration>**

**Lustful Thoughts**

When a Christian is looking where he shouldn’t and desiring something sinful, he will have no peace because of the conviction of sin that comes from God’s Spirit within him. Lust always creates chaos in the heart and soul.

**Galatians 5:16-17**

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

**Guilt**

Peace is fragile and is easily lost when we feel the guilt of our sin. It could be something we said or did that we shouldn’t have, or perhaps something we should have said or done but didn’t. Either way, our peace evaporates under the Spirit’s conviction.

**1 John 1:9**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

**Anger**

Peace and anger do not coexist. Animosity toward someone stirs up negative emotions and robs us of a tranquil spirit.

**Psalm 37:8**

“Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil”

**James 1:20**

“For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”

**Ephesians 4:26**

“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger”

**Bitterness**

If we allow past hurtful experiences to fester, we will have no peace because our focus is on the wrong done to us and not on Christ. He suffered more injustice than anyone else ever has but harbored no bitterness, and we are to follow His example.

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Hebrews 12:15**

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled”

**Self-Centeredness**

If we are preoccupied with what we want or think we deserve, we will have no peace because such thinking is rooted in pride.

**Proverbs 8:13**

“The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate”

**Galatians 5:13**

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another”

**Doubt**

Any time we doubt the truth of God’s Word or His promise to answer our prayers, we can’t have the peace of Christ ruling in our hearts.

**Matthew 21:21**

And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen”

**James 1:6**

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind”

**Unbelief**

Those without Christ cannot have His peace because they don’t have a relationship with Him. They may display a limited or conditional serenity, but it is easily lost and won’t last.

**Matthew 17:20**

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you”

**Hebrews 11:6**

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

**Jealousy**

A preoccupation with a desire to have what belongs to someone else robs us of tranquility and contentment!

**James 3:16**

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice”

**Proverbs 6:34**

“For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge”

**How can we experience Christ’s peace?**

Saints, we must believe that He is in control of our lives and our circumstances. Otherwise, we will try to take control, and there is conflict in that struggle.

We must believe that Christ’s offer of peace is real and be willing to accept it in spite of our feelings. We must fully surrender our lives—mind, will, and emotions—to Jesus as our Lord. This includes yielding and conforming our character, conversation, and conduct to His will.

Having Christ’s peace does not mean that we will never have any trouble, suffer pain or illness, or feel afraid. But whenever these experiences come our way, we will be able to respond with absolute confidence and certainty in the sufficiency of Christ.

Saints, Jesus is adequate for every situation and will always carry us through it. In fact, sometimes the most difficult, painful, and trying circumstances can become the seedbed for the awesome peace God gives to us in those moments.

In Closing:

**1. Is your life characterized more by peace or anxiety?**

**2. What situations most commonly rob you of peace?**

**3. Where is your focus in those times? Is it on yourself, others, circumstances, the unknowable future, or Christ?**

**4. What is your level of peace when you are trusting God versus when you are trying to control your life or the lives of others?**

**5. Who is more qualified to be the one in charge—you or God?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**