

"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 KJV



Troubles hold no threat for the believer. With Christ, no storm is too great. The disciples wondered at His power. *"What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!"* Believers can calmly face impending disaster, because their *"life is hid with Christ in God."* Where Jesus is there is peace. These are wonderful sentiments, to be sure, and greater truths will not be found, but what is the day to day, practical, rubber-meets-the-road, application? Ah! Therein lies the rub! How is Christ in our craft? Firstly, be sure you are one of His own by faith alone; that you have called humbly for His forgiveness and mercy. Secondly, that there are no hidden idols in your life; *"little foxes, that spoil the vines."* Unconfessed or overlooked sin may stand between you and God's bounty. What parent grants a rebellious child their desires? To live in sin is to live in rebellion against God. Be the sin ever so small in your eyes it is a tiny tick that feeds and engorges itself until it becomes a horrid parasitical infestation in your life. *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Keep short accounts with God! Don't wait until the end of the day. As soon as you're aware of the sin, be rid of it! Confess it, forsake it, and apologize if necessary to another! Thirdly, doubt is sin. Believe and trust God over all else, no matter the appearances. *"Faith is...the evidence of THINGS NOT SEEN."* It may seem supply and ability are inadequate, and they very well may be, but remember, God told Paul, *"My Grace is sufficient for thee. My strength is made perfect in weakness."* The widow used the very last drop of oil before the cruse could become an endless supply for every day's need. It isn't until we exhaust every resource that God can get the glory for our supply and when we have nothing left we are the most grateful for what God provides. It is only on the path of obedience to God's Word, in spite of want, we find the bounty of divine provision! God promised, *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Trust God's Word in spite of doubt. Choose, by faith, to ignore appearances, and when God's power is revealed, you'll not hesitate to trust Him again. A chair, once sat in, is never doubted. The body is *"carnal, sold under sin. The natural man cannot perceive spiritual things."* This applies to all trouble during our earthly pilgrimage. Whether it's relationships, finances, health, persecution, or natural disaster, the eyes of faith and love allow us to see and trust God's invisible unchanging omnipotence to deliver us from, or carry us through any whirlwind of life that may engulf the physical senses. *"Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you."* It may seem God is asleep, but *"He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber."* When we abandon human effort and cry out to Him and He'll be the peace in our storm. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

When storms of life assail our brace,
We need but seek our Savior's face,
He'll speak to calm our wind and waves,
And we will know that Jesus saves! -CGP

If Christ isn't in your life, you have no peace! *"Is anything too hard for the LORD? Great peace have they which love Thy Law: and nothing shall offend them. For with God nothing shall be impossible."* You're either with God or against God! Calmly sail in the heart of the storm, assured that when God is with you, all is well.

"And he saith unto them, 'Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?' Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm." Matthew 8:26 KJV