

RUSSELL SANDERS

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TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 12

PEACE

One of the truly greatest gifts that we are to “be given” is peace. It is a gift of God given to all true believers by Jesus.

John 14:27 records the words of Jesus where He said, ***“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.”*** (KJV)

He said this to the disciples as He was teaching them His final lessons. They had just eaten the Passover meal and He would shortly be departing to the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew He had but a few hours before His crucifixion. He would be leaving them; that is why He said, ***“Peace I leave with you.”*** This was His parting gift to them and us.

His words, ***“My peace I give unto you”*** show Him as the source of our peace. His Hebrew name “Yeshuah” translated “salvation” in the Old Testament also means “safety.”

“Not as the world giveth” shows that it is a very different kind of “peace” from man’s common concept of peace being “an absence of conflict.” Jesus’ peace is that of comfort to our soul and spirit and the calm assurance that His hand is with us always.

That is why He said, ***“Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*** Our faith and trust on Him secure our peace. We need not fear anything whatsoever.

Faith and fear do not mix; they are polar opposites. Where there is fear, there is no faith. Where there is faith, there is no fear. We can have that deep settled peace within that “God’s got this.”

It is notable that when Jesus appeared after His resurrection to ten apostles hiding in fear that the first words He spoke to them (John 20:19) were ***“Peace be unto you.”*** He imparted that peace to them (and us) in that instant.

Later on, when Thomas had rejoined them, questioning their story, Jesus reappeared and again greeted them with ***“peace be unto you.”***

When a person today is newly “born again”, perhaps the most notable verification of their new-born self is the great feeling of peace that they now can truly feel and know that they stand guiltless before God, free from sin. That is a peace to which we lay claim for all our remaining days on earth.

When people “lose their peace” and become troubled or worried, it is because their faith has grown faint or lacking. We live ***“by the faith of the son of God...”*** (Galatians 2:20). It is a lifestyle of faith which is imparted unto us by the Holy Spirit from Jesus Christ.

By faith we must truly believe the word of God without reservation. That faith secures our gift of peace.