

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

This series of studies is taken from the Upper Room Discourse of (John 13-14).

- **John, chapters 13-14** is called **the Upper Room Discourse** at the Last Supper (**John 14:31; Matt.26:30**).
- **John, chapters 15-17** is called the **Mount Olive Discourse**, following the Last Supper (Matt.26:30).

What followed was the Garden of Gethsemane prayer, betrayal, arrest (**John 18:1**; Matt.26:36-56).

This series of lessons will address how spiritually advancing believers should respond to the 2020 Covid-19 crisis. We will give you the spiritual tools to cope with this crisis as well as other crises in your Christian Way of Life.

In our last lesson we studied how the disciples of Jesus Christ were unwilling to deal with a common crisis in their lives. They were unwilling to deal with a core problem because of worldly thinking, which we refer to as Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking. (OMCD) (Eph.4:22-24). We saw this same OMCD thinking earlier with Peter dealing with the same crisis in (Matt.16:21-23) to which Jesus responded with “Get behind me satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are **not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.**” (Matt.16:23; 1 Cor.2:14)

We have learned that it wasn’t that they didn’t have faith, but that their faith was upon the wrong object. They believed something to be true that wasn’t relevant to this crisis; believing it would work when it couldn’t.

Doctrinal principle: Faith must have a working object.

The working object for the believer is the truth of the word of God, Categorical Bible doctrine. (CBD). That working object, the Word of God works because it is based on the Character of God, not man’s! (John 14:1) (you believe in God, believe also in Me).

(1 Thess.5:24) “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

In our last lesson we learned that every time Jesus tried to point them towards the Truth of the Word of God, (CBD). they rejected it because it didn’t agree with their false premise. This mindset came to a head at the Upper Room Discourse in John, chapters 13-14.

As the crisis increased, the disciple’s hearts became more troubled (tarasso) and fearful (deiliao) until Jesus confronted them in (John 14:1) and (John 14:27).

This lesson will study four aspects of the key doctrinal solution to Troubled and Fearful Hearts caught in a major crisis – The Peace of Christ.

- 1. In (John 14:1) Jesus told His disciples that the first antidote to a troubled heart regarding this crisis was to believe in God and to believe in Me.**

In (John 14:1) three commands were issued to resolve the troubled heart:

- **stop** troubling you own heart
- **start** believing in God and
- **then** believe in Me,

In (John 14:27), Jesus added the second antidote to a believer’s troubled and fearful heart - **The Peace of Christ.**

(John 14:27) **“Peace (eirene) [inner tranquility/ freedom from troubled and fearful heart] I leave (aphiemi/ p.a.ind.1ps) [grace gift] with you (su) [dative of advantage]; My peace I give (didomi/ p.a.ind.1ps) [grace gift] to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not (me) [stop!] let your hearts be troubled (p.p.impv.2pl), nor [stop!] let it be fearful (p.p.impv.2pl).”**

- Note that Jesus Christ didn't take HIS PEACE with Him when he left this world. **The Peace of Christ** is inner tranquility of freedom **from** a troubled and fearful heart (Luke 8:22-25).

2. I am not addressing the “Peace With God” given to the unbeliever in salvation (Rom.5:1; Col.1:20). Rather, I am addressing the “Peace Of Christ” extended to the believer in their Christian “Walk” (Way of Life) (John 14:27).

(1 Thess.5:23) **“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

(Rom.14:17) **“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

3. One important way that the “Peace Of Christ” works in the Christian’s “Walk” is by the Indwelling Holy Spirit

(1 Cor.6:19-10). The indwelling Holy Spirit produces the fruit of peace (Gal.5:22-23) when believer **walks** (peripateo/ p.a.impv.2pl) **[in every aspect of your life] by means of The Spirit** (Gal.5:16-17).

The Holy Spirit can supernaturally produce **“Peace Of Christ”** in those moments when a believer's heart is troubled and fearful (Rom.8:6-7).

(Rom.15:13) **“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and **peace in believing**, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

(John 16:33) **“These things I have spoken to you that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you have tribulation, take courage; I have overcome the world.”**

Isaiah referred to Christ as **“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”** in (Isa.9:6).

Today, our Lord Jesus Christ is the “Prince of Peace” in midst of a world's pandemic Covid-19 crisis, so let not your hearts be troubled, nor be fearful.