

Supernatural Peace

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Psalm 23

Text: Psalm 23:1-2, Hebrews 13:20

After telling us about God's supernatural protection, David went on to say that the Lord leads us beside the still waters. This is a picture of serenity, tranquility, and peace that God promises His people. In a world filled with agitation and turmoil, we should always be mindful of that empowering sense of calm and security that only comes from Jesus.

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus brings peace to the sheep. Sheep are under constant threat and stress from the elements and predators. Most people do not live peaceful lives. Most do not live in peace. Isaiah tells us that Jesus is -Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God and the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Prince – captain, master, ruler, steward and Lord. A prince has authority but it is to be used to help better the lives of the people they rule over. They are to provide, protect and create an atmosphere for those they care for to thrive.

~ C.S. Lewis - "God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because... there is no such thing."

In a world filled with trouble, Jesus leads us into His peace. **John 14:1 & 27** He tells us to not let our heart be troubled.

The word 'troubled' here is the Greek word 'tarasso', which means to shake, to trouble, to disquiet, to unsettle, to perplex, to cause anxiety, or even to cause feelings of grief. It is the picture of one who feels inwardly shaken, unsettled, confused, and upset. By using this word tarasso — translated here as "troubled" — Jesus was literally telling us, "Don't let your heart be shaken, troubled, unsettled, anxious, or filled with feelings of grief."

Jesus said that we didn't need to be troubled because He was giving us His peace. He said "My peace I leave with you". It is a peace that He is not removing or taking away. Peace is the Greek word 'eirene', and it is used throughout the New Testament to describe the peace of God. This word was first used to depict the cessation of war or conflict put away. It pictures a time of rebuilding and reconstruction after war has ceased. The distractions have been removed, and a time of prosperity has set in. The rule of order has taken the place of chaos.

The word for 'peace' describes a calm, inner stability that results in the ability to conduct oneself peacefully even in the midst of circumstances that would normally be traumatic or upsetting. It is actually the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word 'shalom', which expresses the idea of wholeness, completeness or tranquility in the soul that is unaffected by outward circumstances or pressures.

When Jesus says He has given us His peace, He is basically saying, that the conflicts and warlike disturbances that were once active in our souls have been **removed**. He is saying He has established a cease fire and brought about a calm, inner stability and tranquility in our mind, will, and emotions. Peace has come in the place of chaos. It is time to rebuild.

“Peace, I leave with you....” The word ‘leave’ here is the Greek word ‘aphiemi’, and it means to permanently **release**; to impart; to set free; or to let go. It is a picture of complete liberation. When Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you,” it was the equivalent of Him saying, “I’m permanently releasing my peace to you, and I want it to stay with you for the rest of your life.

Where is the peace of Jesus to take up residence in our lives? In our **heart**. The word ‘heart’ is the Greek word ‘kardia’, which describes the heart and it’s where we get the words cardiac and cardiac arrest. While the word heart can describe the physical organ it is used to describe the inner self, spirit, or center of a person. It involves the elements of emotion, instinct, and passion. (Mind, Will and Emotion) It describes **who** we are. **Colossians 3:15 (NIV),**
Philippians 4:6-8 (NKJV & NLT)

When Jesus says “Let not your heart be troubled He is saying “Don’t let your inner self — the core of who you are — be shaken, troubled, unsettled, or anxious by the things you see and hear around you. I have permanently given you My supernatural peace to calm you and provide an internal stability even in the midst of traumatic events.” Jesus promises that His peace will **guard** both our heart and mind.

“Let the peace of God **rule** in your heart” (Colossians 3:15) is a directive to allow Christ's tranquility to act as an **umpire** or arbitrator, governing decisions, emotions, and relationships. It implies that inner peace should be the final authority in guiding thoughts, rather than allowing chaos or fear to reign. Peace is meant to be active and decisive, helping to settle questions, conflicts, and decisions.

Jesus not only wants our heart free from trouble, He wants it free from **fear**. **John 14:27** This word ‘afraid’ is the Greek word ‘deilos’, and it depicts a gripping fear or dread that produces a shrinking back or cowardice. It is a dread that saps one’s ability to look at a problem head-on and causes us to retreat. It means to be timid or a coward. The apostle Paul used this same Greek word in his instruction to his young apprentice Timothy. **2 Timothy 1:6-7**

Let’s look at verse 7 once more and insert the word ‘shepherd’ for God. It says, “For God — our Shepherd — has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Fear is a **spirit**. The word ‘spirit’ in this verse is the Greek word ‘pneuma’, and it denotes a spirit, like a spiritual force. Fear is a spiritual force that comes against us to stop us from moving forward into what God has instructed us to do. God didn’t give that to us.

Rather than give us a spirit of fear, our Shepherd has given us His **own** Spirit — one of “...power, and of love, and of a sound mind”

The word power is a form of the Greek word ‘dunamis’, which carries the idea of explosive, superhuman power that comes with enormous energy and produces phenomenal, extraordinary, and unparalleled results. This word depicts miraculous powers that are impressive, incomparable, and beyond human ability to perform.

God’s Spirit is also one of ‘love’. In Greek, the word ‘love’ is ‘agape’, and it denotes a divine love that gives and gives, even if it’s never responded to, thanked, or acknowledged. This love is so profound that it knows no limits or boundaries in how far, wide, high, and deep it will go to show that love to its recipient. It is a self-sacrificial love that moves the lover to action. So not only has God deposited His explosive, superhuman power in you, but also His supernatural love.

Romans 8:31-39

The Bible goes on to say that our Shepherd has also given us a sound mind. This phrase is a translation of the Greek word ‘sophronismos’, which is a compound of the word ‘sodzo’, meaning ‘salvation’ or deliverance, and the word ‘phroneo’, the root for the word ‘mind’. When these two words are put together, it is translated as sound mind, and it describes one that is reasonable, balanced, and levelheaded in the way that they think; one who thinks clearly about themselves or a situation.

This is a picture of a saved brain or delivered mind, which is quite the opposite of a mind paralyzed by fear, panic, and illogical thinking. God has rescued and salvaged our mind, giving us the ability to think clearly and accurately and not be driven by a spirit of fear. He is our Peace that brings us calm in the midst of our storms. What used to cause panic and unrest now leaves us with a sense of security.

Peace is not just about how we feel but about how we think. **Isaiah 26:3** The Passion Translation of this verse says, “Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose imaginations are consumed with You; they confidently trust in You.” This scripture leads us to very important questions each of us needs to ask ourselves on a regular basis: What am I thinking about? What kinds of thoughts are consuming my mind?

Anxious thoughts will always present themselves, but still waters are available as we turn our focus on Jesus and allow Him to release His peace into our hearts and minds. David faced times of distress but he learned to focus his thinking on God. **1 Samuel 30:6, Psalm 94:19**

God promises a peace that surpasses understanding; peace when peace doesn’t make sense. He makes us lie down in it. He is the Prince of Peace. The Captain of our Peace. He is our Peace with God. He is our Peace with ourselves. He is peace with our situations. He is inner peace. He gives us peace with God by forgiving us of our sins. He gives us peace with our future by giving us the promise of Eternal Life. Our past, our present and our future are safe and secure.