

His Peace Remains: The Stillness That Stays When the Storms Outside Rage

There is a kind of peace the world cannot give, and because it cannot give it, the world cannot take it away. I have lived long enough to know the difference between the calm that comes when circumstances behave themselves and the deeper calm that holds steady when they do not. The first is a fragile thing, a borrowed quiet that lasts only as long as the bills are paid, the diagnosis is good, and the people we love stay close. The second is something altogether different. It is the peace of God Himself, and it remains.

Jesus said it plainly on the night before His crucifixion: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27). Notice the phrasing. He did not merely offer peace as a vague blessing. He gave His own peace. The very stillness that allowed Him to sleep in the stern of a boat while the disciples bailed water and shouted into the wind, that is what He hands to us. The Sea of Galilee was heaving. The waves were breaking over the sides. And the Son of God was asleep on a cushion, untroubled, because His peace did not depend on the weather.

That is the whole point, you see. The storm was real. Mark does not soften it. The disciples were not imagining danger; they were genuinely in peril, or so it appeared to every experienced fisherman among them. The peace of Christ is not the absence of the storm. It is the presence of Someone in the boat with you who is greater than the storm.

I have noticed over the years that we keep praying for the wrong thing. We pray, again and again, for God to still the wind. And sometimes, in His mercy, He does. But more often, He wants to do something better and more lasting in us. He wants to give us His peace in the middle of the very thing we begged Him to remove. Anyone can be calm once the danger has passed. It takes the indwelling Spirit of God to be calm while it rages.

Paul understood this. Writing from a Roman prison, "not a study, not a comfortable manse, but a cell", he told the Philippians that the peace of God, "which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). That word *keep* is a military term. It means to garrison, to stand guard. The peace of God is not a feeling that wafts in and out depending on our mood. It is a sentry posted at the door of the heart, refusing entry to the panic that would otherwise overwhelm us.

And here is the part we so easily miss: this peace passes understanding. It does not make sense. It is not proportionate to the circumstances. People will look at you in your trouble and wonder how you are still standing, still trusting, still able to smile. You will not be able to explain it to them, and you should not try too hard, because it is not the fruit of your reasoning. It is the gift of God, and it comes precisely when the situation gives you no rational grounds for calm.

The United Kingdom is, by any reckoning, an anxious place at present. The headlines do not encourage us. The future feels uncertain in a way it has not for a long while, and many believers are quietly afraid. But I want to say to you, gently and firmly, that the gospel was made for exactly such a season. The peace of Christ was never meant for fair weather

only. It was forged in Gethsemane and proven at Calvary, and it has carried the saints through every dark age the church has known.

So do not measure your faith by how loudly the wind is blowing. Measure it by who is in the boat. The storms outside may rage on for some time yet; that is not in our hands. What is in our hands is whether we will run to Him, lay our anxieties at His feet, and receive the stillness He is so willing to give.

His peace remains. It stays. It does not pack its bags when the trouble comes. Rest in that tonight. Let the wind howl. The One who spoke to the sea is with you, and His peace will keep you - not as the world gives, but as He gives, deeply, permanently, and forever.

Questions

1. When storms rage, where do you run first for calm — "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (**John 14:27, NKJV**)?
2. What trouble are you begging God to remove, when He longs to give peace within it? "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (**Mark 4:38, NKJV**).
3. What worry could you lay down tonight? "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 4:7, NIV**).
4. Do you measure faith by the wind or by your "refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (**Psalms 46:1, NIV**)?
5. What care could you cast on the Lord this week, "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (**1 Peter 5:7, NKJV**)?