



March 2 – Answering Fear with Peace and Joy

When we are living in fear – peace and joy seem far, far away. As we worry, get anxious, try to ignore, or run away – it all just leads to more fear. So, how can we be at peace in the midst of our fear? Is it even possible? Join us this weekend, as we discover how to have peace even if there is little peace in the world around us, because peace can combat fear!

Scripture:

Romans 15:1-6, 13 The Message

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”³⁻⁶ That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles but waded right in and helped out. “I took on the troubles of the troubled,” is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it’s written for *us*. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize *us*, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we’ll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!

Oh! May the God of great hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

John 14:23-28a NLT

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.”²⁴ Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me.²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.²⁷ “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”²⁸ Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again.

Questions:

- Where do you find peace? How do you find peace?
- What if peace isn’t just the absence of noise or commotion? How might Jesus’ peace be different than what we normally think?
- How do you build or allow for joy in your life? This week be intentional about seeing and feeling the joy that is there for you!

Reading for the Week:

Monday: 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Tuesday: Romans 5:1

Wednesday: Ephesians 6:14-16

Thursday: Proverbs 3:1-2

Friday: Isaiah 54:10