

Peace, Power, and Prosperity

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The church has a lot to do with you personally, because you won't find your place in the Kingdom, and your area of gifting, anointing, and talents until you get connected in the Church.

There's no biblical reference for living the Christian life outside the community of believers. A lot of Christians do it, but the problem is that if they are a body part, then there's a part of the body somewhere that's not being fulfilled.

Philippians 4: 1-9, *“Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. Rejoice in the Lord always, Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you”.*

Through Christ, you've been given your freedom. You can do whatever you want to do with that. But one of the wise things to do is you're going to stay, stay and give your life over to the one who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Paul was a grace man. He understood it better than anyone in the world at that point, because he'd been so far on the other side of that. He was as legalistic as you could possibly get, but he had an encounter, not a lot of different than an encounter that you can have, or you're having, with the Father.

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I think it's important, especially during this time, to be in the Word. The Bible says that in the end times, there's a chance for even the very elect to be deceived. So, you have to pay attention not, know what the Bible says, listen and be led by the Spirit. That's your guarantee.

Paul loved the people that he wrote the letters to. He called them his dear children. He didn't just see them as someone who was a parishioner, someone who went to his church. He saw them as someone who was very dear to him, that were his inheritance.

If you'll do those things mentioned in the scripture above, the peace of God, get that. Yeah, it's contingent upon some things that you do.

You can't experience and live in the peace of God until, or unless, you embrace the God of peace. That's the key to all that.

When Paul had that encounter on the road, he was stricken with blindness for a few days. Then, all of a sudden, he came out of that blindness, and he was really able to see. He was able to see from a kingdom, spiritual, standpoint. And he saw everything differently.

Because of Paul's message of grace, those who were legalistic and still steeped in the law beat him up more than once and left him for dead one of those times. They were always trying to steal Paul's peace away from him, but it never worked.

In the middle of these things, Paul discovered that in his weakness, the power and strength of God is made manifest.

Jesus said to Paul, *"My grace is sufficient for you"*. So I'd say that to you, whatever it is you're going through, whatever it is you're encountering, His Grace is sufficient.

It is so easy, a lot of times, when you're going through something really, really hard, to see the work and the hand of the enemy. But I want you to start looking for God in the middle of your rough, rough times, because He's there. And in this season, God is allowing people to undergo severe testing, because God is allowing us to get to the end of ourselves.

John the Baptist said, *"As He increases, we must decrease"*. It's a part of drawing you to a better, deeper, healthier place, even though it might not feel like it at the start. He's in the middle of all that.

Paul had to contend for peace. He had to work. The peace of God is something that God has given you, but you may have to contend for that to be lived out in your life.

Can you get your peace stolen? Look at the last few weeks or more. During that time, have you lived in a state of total peace? Not me. I've had to contend for it. In fact, it's been upended quite a few times. So, you have to contend for it.

Isaiah 26:3, *"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon You"*. Let's say it in another way, *"You will keep me in perfect peace, if I keep my mind stayed upon You"*. If your life is in a state of confusion or disorder, get your focus back on Him.

You must embrace the reality that you've been given peace, and earnestly contend for that real thing.

There are times that what you are going through can be demonic. When it is, you have the authority over all the power of the enemy. The only thing the enemy has going for him is that God's people will believe a lie. So find yourself a scripture that offsets the lies.

We have to wake up, and understand that we have authority, and you're probably going to be in some situations where you have to use your authority.

I think it's embarrassing in the body of Christ that people are able to hear all the voices that the enemy throws at them better than they hear the voice of God. You just have to set your heart to do it. The question is, **will you?**

POWER: Acts 1:8, *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"*.

John 14:12, *"Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also. And even greater works than these will you do, because I go to My Father"*.

I can ask you if you believe in the works that Jesus did, and everybody in here would say yes. But the question is not over with. *“He who believes in Me and the works that I do, he will do also”*. That’s the key, whether you believe or not. That’s you. That’s us. Embrace that. *“We will do also”*.

John 16:7, *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you”*.

So now, through the Helper, Jesus is in all these places, if you’ve been born again, He could be in all these places right here, at one time. That’s greater works. That’s more works.

If you’re not in a place where you are really getting your faith tested, you are going to be. Because that’s a sign of the times. He doesn’t test your faith so HE can find out where your faith is. He tests your faith, so that YOU can find out where your faith is.

I am reminding you that you have more than enough faith for the things that you are dealing with right now, and He is testing you, maybe, for even greater things.

Prosperity: Philippians 4:19, *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus”*. Now that’s prosperity right there, knowing that your needs are met. God doesn’t always give you what you want, but He always gives you what you need.

The Bible says if you delight yourself in the Lord, He gives you the desires of your heart. So not only can God give you all your needs, He’s going to give you some of your wants, as long as they are not misguided, not selfish and as long as they are healthy and good for you.

Prosperity is knowing that all your needs are met. That’s physical, natural, spiritual and emotional needs. 2 Corinthians 9:8, *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work”*.

There are those who are in need of a material or a financial blessing. First off, the Lord said that begins with an attitude of gratefulness on your part. *“Give Something”*. Because when you give something, especially something that’s important to you, it activates the supernatural. That’s why we’re encouraged in the Word to give.

The Father is bringing some of you across a threshold. If you will listen to Him, get obedient to what He says to you in terms of giving, He’s going to use you to funnel untold, unimaginable resources into Kingdom circulation, but it starts with an attitude of gratefulness.