

TITLE AND NUMBER: 81. Peace through understanding

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 14:26-27

The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.



LOOKING FURTHER: John 14:23-29; John 8:32; 1 John 4:2-6; Philippians 4:4-9

What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage and the surrounding chapters, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His death and the fact that He will no longer be with them in human form. Although John does not say when and where these words were spoken, it seems likely that this conversation took place while they were eating their last meal together, immediately before Jesus was arrested. In the days ahead, the disciples would face traumatic events and they would need the peace that Jesus had promised them.

Some people handle trouble by “burying their heads in the sand” – trying to ignore what is going on and hoping it will go away. Others refuse to believe what they are being told and hope that by doing so, it will turn out not to be so bad.

Jesus makes two promises to us in verses 26 and 27: He promises us the Holy Spirit, the Counsellor, who will “teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said.” In John 8:32, Jesus says that we “will know the truth and the truth will set us free.” That freedom can cover many things. And it includes being set free from fear – not by pretending the problems are not there, but by knowing that God is in control. In 1 John 4:4, we are reminded that “the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” The Holy Spirit, who is the one through whom we can each experience Jesus with us and within us, will remind us of God’s promises and the power, protection and peace that can be ours when we put our trust in Him.

Jesus’ second promise - the “peace that passes all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) – does not come by ignoring our difficulties, but by bringing them to God and hearing what He has to say to us.

Reflections:

- Think back over things you have read from the Bible recently, maybe in these weekly sheets. What truths or promises is the Holy Spirit reminding you of?
- What challenges are troubling you at the moment? Pray about them. To help you with this, you might like to make a list of them, then, around the edge of the paper, write the promises we have looked at today such as John 14:27, John 8:32, 1 John 4:4 or Philippians 4:7.
- Jesus is talking here about inner peace for us as individuals. But He also came to bring peace on earth and goodwill among men. Pray for peace in places of war.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

