

Daily Devotional, January 25, 2021 Peace Be With You

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

It is late and I am struggling within my spirit over many things. If you go to a Bible commentary or Bible index and look up fear or anxious or worry you will find a number of verses listed there. Jesus told His disciples repeatedly not to be afraid, the same as He would tell us today if He were here. We fret over many things and worry about the what if's and the maybe's.

These are a few of the most well-known verses in all of the scriptures, and some of the least well headed by most of us. If God is in control and we are in the testing stage then we are quite possibly where God wants us to be. It seems to me we are in one of two places. We can be in a problem of our own making and one we need to get out from under. We can learn our limitations and our frailties from it, and we can trust in God's faithfulness to be ready to answer when we call for help. Or we are in the refining fire where the dross of life - our old nature, habits or thought patterns - are being burned away. We can learn and gain from either situation.

First, we can repent and walk away from the trouble we're in, following our Lord and Master out and back to the path He has laid out for us. Or we can be patient as He works like a refiner does with gold or silver over a blazing hot fire.

There is a story of a minister in India who was watching a man work with a crude crucible over a fire working with gold ore. The minister watched the refiner carefully pick only the dross out and put it into another container for later refining to collect any gold that clung to the impurities. After a long while he walked closer and asked the man how he knew when he was done refining the ore. The refiner looked up and smiled and said, "When I can see my face clearly reflected in the surface of the molten ore, then it is done."

Sometimes the two situations are one and the same.

How very much like Jesus is the refiner. He works the dross from our lives if we will let Him. One day Jesus will present those of us who know Him as Savior and Lord before the Father - spotless and pure. When we have been refined and reflect the image of Jesus perfectly, then we will be presentable to God, the Father.

Verse six of Philippians 4 comes with a promise that follows in verse seven. When we learn to turn to prayer first and to breath that prayer throughout our daily walk with Christ, it is then that we will know much more of this peace that passes all understanding. I'm not there yet, but it is my goal. I do know that we get to verse seven through the crucible of verse six. Through our reaching out in prayer God brings us peace.

Prayer: Lord, I come before you pouring out my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet. I am calling for Your blessings of peace and strength over my life. Bring peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding and make me a light for others to see Your strength, that I might be a messenger of peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.