



CROSSIN' THE GULF
MINISTRIES CHURCH

Peace

December 2024

Dear Partner,

Hello Family, Partners, and Friends, grace, peace, and favor to you. I want to start off this month's letter with a scripture from John 14:27 (NKJV):

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid.

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples as He was getting them ready for His death, burial, and resurrection. Imagine. Of all the things Jesus could have told them, He told them to not let their hearts be troubled and not to be afraid because He was leaving them HIS peace.

The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom. The definition I learned and like the best is "nothing missing, nothing broken". Shalom is derived from the root word shalom meaning wholeness or completeness; to be safe in mind, body, or estate. I was reminded of John 16:33 where Jesus continued preparing His disciples telling them, **"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation (trouble); but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

Stop and think about that for a moment. Jesus did not say they were not going to have trouble, He told them they would and, in the middle of trouble, they would have peace and be of good cheer. Why? He, Jesus, had already defeated and conquered (overcome) whatever they would face in the world. When we are faced with a problem, but we know the answer, there is no concern. That is what Jesus offers. He offers safety in mind, body, and estate. He offers us peace in the middle of trouble.

Knowing all this, how to we can live in the state of peace Jesus gives? Look back at John 14:27 – **do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be afraid.** Jesus was not talking about the physical organ of our heart. He was referring to the core of man. In Hebrew, the heart of man is best interpreted by the "inner person" where we have our thoughts (mind), intentions (will), and feelings (emotions). The heart is where we choose what we will do or say, or how we will act.

We can choose to let our mind, will, or emotions be troubled or afraid. We can also choose not to let our mind, will, or emotions be troubled or afraid. We choose.

I like to remind myself in the midst of trouble that Jesus conquered everything I would face in this world. That means He has an answer for whatever I face. My part is to get the answer and execute. We cannot fight thoughts with thoughts. We have to fight thoughts with words. When trouble comes, if we sit and ponder all the ways things could go wrong and struggle thinking about a fix, we will put ourselves in mental turmoil. Instead, when we stop and open our mouths asking Jesus what to do and stay quiet long enough to hear what to do, His peace has can wash over us.

We are told in Matthew 6:31 (KJV) that we take thoughts by saying them. For example, if we have the thought that we always get sick when the weather changes and that is what we consistently say, stop and think about what usually happens. This same process is what we use to take Jesus' peace (wholeness). We can choose to take the thought saying, "I have a strong immune system, and changing temperatures don't affect me." It takes as much effort to worry as it does to believe for good. The difference will be the outcome.

Peace. In praying about 2025, that is the one word I see. It stands out like a black billboard with bold large letters – PEACE. That does not mean there will not be things for us to overcome, but we can trust in the One who already overcame and will show us how to do the same. Take the thought saying, "Jesus is my peace and things always work out for me."

I am in the habit of saying, "I always have everything I need and more than the enough." The everything-I-need is for me, the more-than-enough is for others. As we learn to walk in the peace Jesus left us, we can help others do the same. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our peace. Our part is to receive His gift and take it through saying.

We want to close out 2024 by saying, "Thank you!" Partners and Friends. This has been a remarkable year. Your faithfulness in praying for us and giving financially has propelled us to reach more lives in USA, Belize, and abroad. We are so very thankful for you. If you need prayers and want us to rejoice over a breakthrough, please contact us via our website or email below.

You are in the Father's heart and ours. From our family to yours, we pray you have a very Merry Christmas! Remember, your Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus! (John 17)

Shalom, Shalom (peace, peace),

Pastors Jordan & Melissa Mack

Psalm 23, **Psalm 91**, Isaiah 54:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Exodus 3:21, **Numbers 6:24-26**, Ephesians 1:15-21, Colossians 1:9-14, **Colossians 3:1-17**

Has this letter BLESSED you? Pass this Partner letter on to a family member or friend and be a BLESSING to them.