Peace



The story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee is familiar. You may have first heard it in Sunday School as a child. It's a fascinating event recorded in each of the three synoptic Gospels. The disciples feared for their lives as a fierce storm hit Galilee and threatened to capsize their boat. But Jesus, with a command, said, "Peace, be still!" Mark 4:39 (KJV) says, and the storm calmed at once. The response of the Disciples is interesting. "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?" Mark 4:41 (KJV).

The wind and the sea obeyed Jesus, of course, because He is the Creator, their Lord and Master. How could they not obey Him? But dear ones, what about us? I've been dealing with some heart issues; a loved relative is struggling with addiction, and close friends' marriage has been impacted by adultery. Then I listen to the news and hear reports of war and violence, another school shooting this week, a deeply divided nation, natural tragedies in many places. Storms! My boat may seem to be capsizing! What about you? Are there storms in your life? Are there things that you are dealing with that threaten to capsize your boat?

Well, we are called to "obey" the Lord too! He has promised to give us peace even in the midst of storms. As real as Jesus standing in that boat, rocking in the waves, buffeted by the wind, Jesus is with you today as you face your storms. And he speaks to your heart and to mine, "Peace, be still!" And the big question is, will we obey our Creator? Our Lord and Master?

Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. … 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." John 14:23-27 (NIV).

And the Apostle Paul writes to the Philippians, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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 minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV).

Brother or Sister, there is a promise of His peace for you, whatever you are facing today! And there is a command to peace that we are called to obey as followers of Jesus.

May you know His peace in whatever storm you may be in. And let us obey His call to peace as surely as the wind and waves on Galilee.

Larry M. Dentler – CBC Executive Board

Weekly Prayer Point

Thank You, Father, for Your great love, divine favor, and blessing over our lives! No one is like You, Lord, no equal, no rival, and no limit to Your greatness. As we grow in our knowledge of You, we long for the day when we will truly know You and not just in part. You are our Strength and our Shield, a mighty Fortress. The world seems poised on the edge of destruction, yet You have a glorious plan.

Thank You for being the Light in darkness, Peace in the storm, and the Way into the Holy of Holies. You are omnipotent and yet near to the weak and brokenhearted. You created all things, and yet You care about each detail of our lives! I am so touched that in the great work of forming the early church, You reminded Peter to latch his sandal so he wouldn't stumble. You are omniscient and know our every wicked thought; yet You still love us. We rest in these truths of who You are today and forevermore, and yet we long for more of You! Thank You, Father, that You made a way for us to abide in Your presence; for in Your Presence is fullness of Joy.

Please pray for these congregations and pastors:

- Cedar Bluff Congregation in Boones Mill, VA and Pastor Todd Reed
- Center Congregation in Champion, PA and Pastor Homer Painter
- Center Hill Congregation in Kittanning, PA
- Centro Cristiano Arca de Dios Congregation in Venezuela

CBC Prayer Committee