

Peace In Times Of Turmoil

"The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'"

Jeremiah 31:3

"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 interesting to work through the thoughts of the Holy Spirit as He guided the biblical writers. For example, our text in Philippians starts with the goal, "Do not be anxious". Following that we are instructed on how to reach the goal.

First, we are told that the instruction is good for "every situation". There is no problem, road block, person, illness or any other thing that can come between you and your Lord. Whatever your concern is today, your Father in heaven tenderly calls you into His safe presence for a private time together.

Four words cover our activity when we draw near to the Lord and they are, "prayer, petition, thanksgiving, requests". The four words fall into two broad categories; thanksgiving and petition. When we are in the middle of a crisis, we might ask, "Thanksgiving for what?" One obvious answer would be that we should be thankful for access 24/7 to our Father in heaven. Such a privilege should never be taken for granted by us. The Lord bestows a great dignity on us, and that dignity allows us to call the Creator of the universe, "Father". This should make us feel both humbled and honoured at the same time.

Prayer is made up of several elements and "petition" is a large portion of prayer. One Christian

leader of the 20th century said prayer was nothing but petition. I don't agree but when we read the prayer Jesus taught the disciples (Matthew 6:9-13) we observe several elements included in prayer such as worship, submission, and adoration.

As we prepare for, and enter into, a time of prayer some preparation is helpful. Hence a hymn book, our Bible, notes on previous prayer requests and answers to prayer kept at our place of prayer will be wonderful aids.

Time spent in prayer can be an oasis in a desert of turmoil. Here we enter into the eternal court of our loving heavenly Father Who has loved us eternally and drawn us gently into His kingdom. Let us respond with joy and gladness. Come to the place where you are welcome, where you belong, and to where you shall soon enough be forever with the Lord. Make haste to come to this peaceful sanctuary and find your much needed rest and restoration to continue your faith journey toward the Celestial City, the New Jerusalem our ultimate and eternal home. May you come and find all you need for the day ahead of you, Come and come now.

Sweet hour of prayer!
sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants

and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's
snare,
By thy return,
sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer!
sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those whose
anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior
shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee,
sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer!
sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth
and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me
seek His face,
Believe His Word
and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee,
sweet hour of prayer!
- William W. Walford

"Life with God is not immunity
from difficulties,
but peace in difficulties."
C. S. Lewis

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