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Substance of Two Sermons preached by our Pastor  
on Sunday, August 29. 1982.

Morning Lesson. John 14.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John 16. 33.

As all our beloved friends well know, here ends Christ our beloved Saviour's farewell discourse to His redeemed disciples prior to His priestly Passion, and following this His intercessory prayer. Then He goes forth into the garden of Gethsemane, to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense to give His life voluntarily, vicariously to expiate the sins of His people. So from chapters 14-16 we have His farewell; a touching, wondrous, vastly important farewell address to His dear disciples. You will notice one particular among others, that is the amazing construction by the Holy Ghost, by the Trinity of the last Scripture. It is a triad; it is complete. He begins with those things He has spoken to them. What an important word! "These things I, your blessed, glorious Lord have powerfully, sweetly, unctuously, divinely spoken to you in heavenly articulation. These things." These things: what are they? These things of divine, eternal blessing and substance, and efficacy and power, and love and goodness. "These things I have spoken unto you." What a spiritual exercise of devotion it would be for all godly people to endeavour by gracious discernment to arrive at the nature and dimensions of "These things I have spoken unto you, - My redeemed disciples, eternally loved children, in union and communion and fellowship with Me. These things I have spoken unto you." Remember beloved, the Lord has already said, "My sheep hear my voice." You will not go indefinitely without hearing the voice of your Beloved. "His mouth," says the bride in Canticles, "is most sweet." and it is especially sweet when He calls you below and promises forgiveness and peace to your soul, and when He sheds abroad His love in your soul. So He says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

"These things." It will be part of the discourse to day, God willing to work out together, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me,

in My great heart of love, in My sweet Person - "This glorious Man thy peace shall be." - in My heart, in My riven side, in My love and compassion, in My holy gospel, in My Covenant of Grace, in all My precious work of priestly atonement, in My mediation and intercession and advocacy, in divine faithfulness, immutable love and infinite clemency, in Me; in My glorious Person, My truth and holy will, in Me, signifying oneness, eternal union, in Me, nowhere else but in Me." Signifying your knowledge of Him by faith, your communion with Him, your holy intimacy with Him; showing you are in His heart and He in yours by His Spirit. "that in me ye might have peace."

I will pause to make a comment and call over one of the divine principles in the things of God concerning His people passing through a waste howling wilderness, having much to contend with within and without; that is, He speaks at times of tribulation we must endure. Many times in both Testaments there are references and promises to those who are in, or will pass through trouble, trials, persecutions, conflicts and so on. Have you noticed He never speaks of trouble or tribulation in the abstract never alone. My friends, the generations of godly people who passed through these pews all passed through tribulation, but they have the victory through the blood of the Lamb. They are safe Home, landed on the Happy Shore. Christ has received them at the strand; they worship and adore Him around His Throne. But with us it is tribulation. Tribulation is never presented by the Lord in Scripture in the abstract; it is never naked, stark. It is always married to or surrounded by something. Look at the beauty of the Scripture. There is tribulation. This verse is often misquoted. People say, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but in me peace." It is, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.... but in me peace." It is always good to try to correctly quote Scripture.

Take this blessed verse: here is tribulation. You will say, "Must we pass through it?" Some are in it, up to their necks in it and more so; they are almost submerged. Is this the path of God's people? There is no merit in it to salvation: all merit is Christ's. It is God's appointment for a specific purpose. There is tribulation: it is painful, distressing, sorrowful, agonising, overwhelming. It spells put your cross, burden, sorrow, and things unnamed because they are too painful. Look at the

presentation of trouble: it is surrounded with heavenly peace and victory. The Lord always does that. Right through the Bible He always associates with trouble the promise of what He will do for you. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned.-Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth them out of them all.-He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee." There it is. My friends, you will get your richest blessings in the deepest waters; not in shallow waters. I do bless God for wisdom divine, the excellency of divine wisdom in the presentation of trouble to His dear people.

So I will give a few words to you in the congregation. The heavenly character is indispensable and unfathomed of holy, divine peace. It is desirable that you should retain in your minds the definition of holy peace and enjoy the substance of the same. What is it? No one can answer unless they enjoy it. You can never give a word of testimony concerning holy peace unless your ransomed soul knows the sweet, heavenly enjoyment of it. What would be a good definition of holy peace as a testimony from your soul and lips? I will give you one that cannot be exceeded; it is perfect. The enjoyment in the soul of an eternally loved and sanctified sinner of the smile of the Father. That is peace. I do not say you have the unmitigated smile of the Father and no full stop, but He looks and loves and smiles and you are filled with peace. And the blessed effect of the sweet, sacred, illuminating, sanctifying presence of the Lord Jesus is peace. And with the glorious Trinity, the heavenly smile of the Father in the soul, this to me is Heaven begun on earth. Jesus Himself draws near and goes with you. His sweet, sacred, divine, permeating presence known in the soul transcends all; that is peace. Thirdly, the descent from Heaven of the immortal Dove of Peace indwelling you and communicating all the heavenly graces and virtues to your soul, that is peace. What do you say concerning the glorious gospel? Does it make your mouth water spiritually? Does it produce an intense longing, a vehemence in desire for heavenly, divine, sacred peace passing understanding? I wish for the congregation and the preacher the sweet enjoyment of this peace, so this is not just a discourse on a sacred subject, but a rich experience of it in our souls.

God the Father is the God of Peace. Do you know the God of Peace? He gave His Son freely and sent Him to make peace. He is the God of Peace. I remind you who love and fear Him and enjoy favours divine, His blessed Son incarnate, our Saviour Jesus Christ is our Prince of Peace. What about it? do you know the Prince of Peace? Heaven is filled with divine peace and all of His dear people enjoy this. And when they are not enjoying it, if they have received deliverance from the condemnation of the law by a revelation of Christ and His rich grace imparted they are in a state of peace. They are not in a state of enmity, but of amity with God. This is peace. I hope this is clear to you. I remind you that the Holy Ghost is the Dove of Peace. This is a definition of peace. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost - the God of Peace, the Prince of Peace, the Dove of Peace. It is glorious. Does it by the Spirit lift us to Heaven? Is it not a bright scene, not a scene of darkness around us, filled with light ineffable, a sense of comfort, joy, intense satisfaction concerning our salvation?

I will give you a definition of holy peace as to the enjoyment of it. Remember that it always flows from the eternal God to us at the greatest price ever paid, through Christ who gave His life sacrificially, voluntarily, vicariously. That was the price paid to divine Justice for full satisfaction. Remember this when you enjoy peace. Tranquility of spirit is holy peace. Then freedom, liberation from anxiety. It is liberation, emancipation from a hyper form of anxiety when the Lord sends peace. The third part of peace is sweet, holy harmony, not discord. That is peace. If you get it from God - and only God can give it - it is one of the most wonderful things in the world. It does not mean that God takes trouble away and you are walking in ease with no concern or anxiety. It means you are walking in tribulation, liberated from anxiety, and tranquility fills your spirit, and the sweetest harmony with God, His will, His word, His peace. It is a wonderful thing. Peace, perfect peace.

I will tell you something <sup>else</sup> concerning peace. The Lord has of His infinite wisdom and divine goodness given His people holy peace to enjoy according to His pleasure here below for a number of divine reasons. One is, to compensate them for all their troubles and woes. "Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years

wherein we have seen evil." There is compensation, merciful and gracious. Next, it is a divine, infallible proof of your sonship, of your eternal salvation. Why? For a profound reason: it is a foretaste of Heaven; it shows you are going there. Think of those things, the blessed, divine compensation. The meaning of divine peace is, you may be in an impasse, surrounded with trouble and feel you must sink and all come to nothing. You do not know what to do, and the Lord sends wonderful peace and you leave everything. I speak in terms of affection, tenderness and devotion. You can leave your wife, husband, dear children and all concerning you; your business, profession, all; the Church of God, the flock in God's hands, and you do leave it. That is the effect of peace. If there is an operation and you are nervous - shall I come through? - the Lord gives you peace and you have no trouble at all, no anxiety, you are in the blessed hands of the Lord completely. And when it comes to death with this precious soul there is no fear whatever. It is just peace, you are not afraid to die. You feel

"Lo! glad I come; and Thou, blest Lamb,  
Shalt take me to Thee as I am."

There is no fear; it is peace.

"Hail, blessed time! Lord, bid me come,  
And enter my celestial Home,  
And drown the sorrows of my breast,  
In seas of unmolested rest."

You have finished with it. It is peace, perfect peace. Peace is a most infallible, sure, wonderful proof that all your sins were expiated at Calvary. They are drowned in the depths of the sea, put behind God's back, all forgiven. Peace is a positive proof of this, holy peace. It is a proof that all is well. It will be well while life endures, and well when called to die. It is also a very positive proof of the eternal love of God, of the Covenant of Grace and of the accomplished priestly work of atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ and His glorious resurrection, ascension and enthronement in Heaven, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. It is because your Great High Priest accomplished the work of atonement that you have peace. It is because He is risen, He has shed His vital blood and condescended to give His life sacrificially, was dead and buried and rose triumphantly. A positive, potent proof it is of all this. Blessed

be God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.