

# Soul Peace or Heart Peace

By R.T. Nusbaum

*"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled . . ." (John 14:27).*

It is very important to understand the context of these scriptures. The Jesus who had walked with the disciples and been with them in the flesh for over three years was about to depart. This circumstance in itself could cause them to react fearfully from their soul. After all, Jesus had become their everything. But Jesus wants them to have peace, not just over this present crisis but through all the crisis of life. His way of reaching this goal is to leave them with something as a remedy. That remedy is accomplished by giving them "peace".

But notice that Jesus is leaving with them a different kind of peace than that which they had previously experienced. The world has its own kind of peace and those of God have rest based on a completely different kind of peace. Wherein lies the difference between the kind of peace Jesus leaves as opposed to the kind of peace sought by earth-dwellers who are in crisis? To understand this difference, you must carefully notice the specific wording of Jesus. "Peace I give... let not **your heart** be troubled."

There is a difference between the heart and the soul. The heart pertains to your motivations while the soul reflects your emotional status at the moment. People of the world are constantly seeking for peace in their soul. When their soul is tranquil they feel that all is well. But is "soul peace" actually what Jesus is trying to bring about in our lives? According to the scriptures above, Jesus is more concerned with heart trouble than He is with soul trouble.

Things that cause us to be troubled in our soul have a tendency to cause us to act on our own impulse. This reaction could be anything from striking out at others to seeking relief for our soul through means that are not given of God. We may conclude that the reason we do such things is because we lack peace in our soul. Having accepted this conclusion, we then move to maintain "soul peace" as a goal. But God is capable of giving a person peace in the soul realm but why would He not want to do that? One reason to consider is because He may have a better way. We should not be so willing to accept any way of deliverance but only God's way.

The other reason God may not want to give us this kind of peace could relate to the fact that a person could use that as an occasion to fleshly motivation.

A final reason may be that He wants our decisions to be made under the peace of God. Your reactions may be very different if you have heart peace. With "heart peace", though your soul be troubled yet His peace will keep your motivation from getting ruffled and doing things in a way and spirit that you know you shouldn't. As I said earlier, the kind

of peace Jesus wants to leave behind is a specific kind of peace and it doesn't do the same thing that the world kind of peace does.

Jesus, himself would prove that His kind of peace was superior to "soul peace." He came to a place in the Garden of Gethsemane where His soul was severely troubled, and he said so, but he never let that affect his heart or motivation. He went to the cross anyway. His soul may have been troubled but not His heart. This is the area where He wants to give us peace.

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We always believe that if we are in the right place spiritually that we will be perfectly tranquil. If that is the case then Jesus was not in the right place spiritually for He said Himself that His soul was troubled. But notice that even in the midst of "soul trouble" Jesus had a peace about Him. He had "heart peace." It over-rode any negative feelings He may have been having in His flesh or soul. His soul may have been troubled but not His heart. This is the area where He wants to give us peace.

In these scriptures, Jesus is preparing to go away. In His going, He wants to leave something very valuable to those whom He loves. But many of us have not accepted His going away present! We have continued in our "freak outs" and not allowed His kind of peace to fill our hearts.

Like all His gifts, we must receive it by faith, trusting that heart peace is there if we will turn from our souls and circumstances. \*\*\*