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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Do You Practice What You Preach?

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It has been very easy to encourage those in sickness, trials, or even facing death that "It will be alright. Get close to the Lord, and He will help you through the valley you are facing." Although I really believe that, I always wondered when it is my time to face death, severe trials, or a really bleak future, how will I face it? Will I really practice what I preach?

Several years ago, when I first faced heart problems, I found my answer to that situation. My blood pressure and heart rate were abnormal.

The results of a heart stress test raised more questions about my heart's health. After several days, the local hospital transferred me to a larger hospital that had facilities for more serious heart care.

After arriving at that hospital, I was scheduled for a heart catheterization. I was told what they were about to do and what could happen. Soon, I was scheduled for the test. When the time came, I was put on a gurney and wheeled down to the operating room.

As I was being wheeled down the long hallway, after kissing my wife goodbye, it was then that I thought about what could happen. I remember telling myself, "Ya' know this could be the last time I see my wife. Something could go wrong while they were probing around, or they may choose to do something while they are in there. I may not wake up. The next time I open my eyes could be in Heaven."

There was no nervousness, nor doubt or fear. There was a wonderful peace and confidence that everything I thought, taught, and preached was true in my life. They were real, not just hypocritical words. "Everything is alright", as the Sunday school song I had led children in singing says.

I proved to myself in that moment that what I believed, practiced, and told others was real in my life. Without a doubt, I had done all the Bible reveals one to do to be saved, was serving Him, and had God's intervention in every step of my life.

From that point on, any problem or situation I have faced has always been greeted with the peace that "My beliefs, faith, and trust are real. Anything I face will be worked out according to the Father's plans and desires. Nothing can hurt me or happen to me unless the Lord allows it. His grace is sufficient. The worst thing that can happen to me is I go to Heaven, and that is a wonderful prospect!"

Most of us will one day face a similar situation. It may be a doctor's prognosis that our lives will come to a short end. Perhaps, it will be a split second before an inevitable tragic result of an

upcoming car accident. Maybe even a fear that one will die of what many in one's family succumbed to.

When you face that time, it may only be for a brief, fleeting moment. Will you have the peace that your faith is real, that you are in God's hands, and that you wholly trust that it will all be okay?

Any fretting may show doubt and questioning. Are you really sure you are saved and a child of God? If you are, then be assured that if you are in His hands, then only His will in your life will happen, and it will all be as He desires in your life. You will be alright! Not even trials, difficulties, or death should rob us of our peace!
"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" Psalm 119:165

"If you see a man unterrified in the midst of dangers, untouched by desires, happy in adversity, peaceful amid the storm, will you not say, "A divine power has descended upon that man?" *— Seneca*

The Peace of God

T. Pierson, 1871

There is what is called the "cushion of the sea." It lies deep below the water's surface, and it is not agitated by storms or driven about by high winds.

That part of the sea is never stirred. When we dredge the bottom and bring up the remains of animal and vegetable life from those waters, we find they show no sign of disturbance for hundreds of years.

The peace of God is much like that calm layer. It lies deep down in the praying, protected soul; too far to be reached by any external disturbance. There can be great tranquility in the God-trusting soul, even when there is turbulence all about the person.

"With peace in his soul, a man can face the most terrifying experiences. But without peace in his soul, he cannot manage even as simple a task as writing a letter."
— Author Unknown

Perfect Peace

Author Unknown

I look not back — God knows my fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours, the sinning and regrets;
I leave them all with Him that blots the record,
And graciously forgives, and then forgets.

I look not forward — God sees all the future,
The road that's short or long, will lead me home;
And He will face with me its every trial,
And bear for me the burden that may come.

I look not around me — then would fears assail me,
So wild the tumult of life's restless sea;
So dark the world so filled with war and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort and of ease.

I look not inward — that would make me wretched,
For I have naught on which to stay my trust;
Nothing I see but failures and shortcomings,
And weak endeavors crumbling into dust.

But I look up — up into the face of Jesus!
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled,
And there is joy, and love, and light filled.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."
Proverb 3:5

God's Peace

Beecher, 1871

The child frightened in his play runs to seek his mother. She takes him upon her lap, and presses his head to hers, and, with tenderest words of love, she looks down upon him, and smooths his hair, and kisses his cheek, and wipes away his tears.

Then, in a low and gentle voice, she sings some sweet descant, some lullaby of love, and the fear fades from his face, and a smile of satisfaction plays over it, and at length his eyes close, and he sleeps in the depths and delights of peace.

God Almighty is more comforting than any mother, and our soul is like that tired child. God takes in the troubled ones, dispels their fear, and lulls them to repose, saying, "Sleep, my darling, sleep! It is I who watch over thee." He giveth His beloved sleep and peace in whatever storm they face.

The mother's arms encircle but one of the arms of one seeking comfort. God clasps every yearning soul to Himself and gives to it the peace which passeth all understanding, beyond the reach of care or any storm.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:7*