

HOW TO BE AT PEACE

By Mark Beaird

Text: Psalms 37:1-7

Many of us would probably like to be like the woman Vance Havner told about encountering on a trip.

■ He writes, "My wife and I were taking a bus trip through the mountains, and the bus broke down right in front of a hillbilly grocery store. The woman there had never been anywhere else much. My wife said, "I don't believe she knows what's going on in the world outside." I said, "Well, don't tell her. I wouldn't want the poor soul to know. Let her die in peace."

-- Vance Havner, from The Vance Havner Quote Book/On This Rock I Stand. Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 16.

Many of us would rather not know about all that's going on around us. To many peace seems to be illusive enough as it is. Peace is something that many have longed for—even searched for—and yet have never found.

Some have it only for short moments and then it slips through their fingers once again. Never-the-less, Christ has said to the child of God "My peace I give unto you". Christ's peace is like His grace: endless, seen and sensed, incomprehensible, abiding, free. **We do not work for it, we rest in it!**

Not only can God make us holy, He can cause us to be at peace. Look at how we can learn to be at peace.

I. DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO FRET (v. 1).

■ Someone wrote, "Lord, give me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept the things I cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference."

A. Don't fret because of what others have or might have done.

■ Psalms 37:9 tells us, "For evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth."

B. Don't fret because of what could happen.

■ Jesus said in Matthew 6:34, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

II. TRUST IN THE LORD (v. 3).

A. Trust the Lord in obedience - in obedience in faith brings a blessing

■ Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

B. Trust the Lord in time of need.

■ Ps. 37:25 David said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

■ It is said, "We lie to God in prayer if we do not rely upon Him after prayer". - Swinnock -

III. DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD (v. 4).

A. Make God the joy of your soul—not things.

■ Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

B. He will give you the holy desires of your heart.

■ Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

IV. COMMIT YOUR WAY UNTO THE LORD (v.5).

A. Roll your burdens upon the Lord. (Give It All to Jesus)

Song: "If the world from you withhold, of its silver and its gold..."

B. Cast away anxiety

■ Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

V. LEARN TO REST IN THE LORD (v.7).

A. Be Still Before God

■ Someone wrote, "The needle in the compass never stands still till it comes right against the north pole. The wise men of the East never stood still till they were right against the star which appeared unto them; and the star itself never stood still till it came right against that other Star, which shone more brightly in the manger than the sun did in the firmament. So the heart of man can find no rest till it comes to Christ."

B. Recognize that God has a plan.

■ The Lord said in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

CONCLUSION

■ An elderly gentleman was out walking with his young grandson. "How far are we from home?" he asked the grandson. The boy answered, "Grandpa, I don't know." The grandfather asked, "Well, where are you?" Again the boy answered, "I don't know." Then the grandfather said good-naturedly, "Sounds to me as if you are lost." The young boy looked up at his grandfather and said, "Nope, I can't be lost. I'm with you." Ultimately, that is the answer to our lostness, too. We can't be lost if He is with us.

Our peace comes from being in His divine presence and having His presence in our lives.