

May 2009

Our Peace and Sense of Security

Dear Friend,

Have you ever wondered about how secure our personal life in Christ really is? What is the best that I can feel about my future? How much peace can I expect to contain against anything that could ever try my future peace? Is our peace and sense of security only for feel good days or those possible intermittent times when perhaps the devil decided to leave us alone? Sometimes we hope that he just loses our address or forgets that we even exist.

The good news Friend is that our peace and sense of security is not dependant on whether or not the devil loses our address. In fact, just the opposite is true. The security that has been afforded us by our Commander in Chief is best revealed against impossible odds.

I like this example, when you go buy tires for your automobile; the best option is to get the ones that will of course last the longest in the future. You could buy something less expensive but they will only last a short time. You really want the best you can buy. The ones that have been road tested for long life, the ones that can withstand the heat of summer, the cold of winter, bumps, punctures, pot holes in the road and the day to day wear and tear.

The good news is of that which has been delivered to us at the new birth, we are given a *new nature*. This new nature has the capacity in Christ to withstand any kind of wear and tear that this life can bring and still rest in a perfect sense of God's security for our life. In essence, our peace has been road tested.

Let's look at one of my favorite examples of this in the word. The life of the apostle Paul gives us great hope in an endless capacity of peace in our life.

The first scripture is found in *II Corinthians 4:7-10* ***But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.***

Notice that Paul says that we have this treasure in earthen vessels. The treasure is of course the evidence of the nature of Christ. This is the wealth of the capacity you and I were created in when we were born-again. Notice that he calls it a treasure. This is no accident, nor is it flowery words just to make the reader feel good.

Paul was describing a treasure chest or reservoir filled with all the precious gems of the divine realm, something that could only come from God. This place is filled to overflowing with pearls of great price, precious promises from his word that saturate our entire life with peace. This treasury is filled with the diamonds that are found in the rough places of life only to be the avenue of freedom against anything that the world can ever bring.

The only problem with this treasure is where it's buried. It is described by Paul to be hidden in earthen vessels. Obviously he is talking about our physical bodies. The Greek actually describes these earthen vessels into two parts; the word earthen being (*burnt clay*) and the word vessel being the word (*vessel or utensil*) particularly a hollow vessel or container. Thus it is easy for us to interpret that the earthen vessel can be described as a clay pot. So the treasure that can not be exhausted is in a clay pot. The problem that we often face against diversity is not with the treasure it is with the clay pot.

Most of us live too much out of the surface from the clay pot instead of living from the inner hidden treasure. The clay pot is vulnerable and subject to emotions, subject to attitudes, mood swings and evil reports. The treasure is oblivious to evil reports. In fact, it flourishes under adversity. The secret is developing a life that lives out of the treasure rather than the pot. For this to be possible the clay pot must be broken, it must not be a restriction to the treasure simply a container for it to flow through.

When we understand the challenge that the body or flesh can present to the new nature it is no wonder why it is so necessary to develop what I call the ministry of "getting back up." Meaning getting back up again and again after any adversity has presented itself to you to slow down or impede your progress in Christ.

Most of us who are learning to depend on a life led out of the treasure are also learning how to be highly developed in starting over every day with a sense of our dependency on Christ. I think this is what Paul mentions in verse **16** of the same chapter...***For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.***

What does this mean? What is the capacity of this treasure? Well let's just see.

Paul said, "*Troubled on every side.*" In plain English that means surrounded. There appears to be no way of escape. "*Yet not distressed.*"

Surrounded = yet not distressed

Have you ever heard the phrase, "to blessed to be stressed?"

Perplexed...meaning the trial is in and of itself a wonder of how it ever got this way and why? The last thing you knew you were just trying to lead a good life in Christ and go forward in what he has called you to. Perplexed, and yet the treasure will not let you feel the despair of a confused state, there is no despair. You are not sure how this is going to work out, you just know deep down that it will.

Perplexed = but not confused

Persecuted...This is when the enemy has found your address and has emailed it to everyone that does not like you. What begins to come at you makes you feel as if you are salmon swimming up stream when everything else is headed the other way. The outside conditions do not seem presently favorable to your progress and at this point people can even be used to help in the fight to assure you that you aren't making any progress...but not forsaken. ***What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) and Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. Let the Lord be magnified that taketh pleasure in my prosperity. (Psalm 35:27)***

Persecuted = not left alone by God

In fact Friend this draws more attention from your Father to bring out all the gems of the hidden treasure within us.

Cast down...sounds like the bottom. It sounds like the bottom rung of the ladder, like the attack is supposed to bring such a hardship that it leaves you on the ground looking up, cast down in something or thrown down so hard that the one doing the throwing thinks you are out for the count, not ever getting back up again. Finished...done...no more.....

Cast down = but not destroyed

The devil thinks oh no! He's back. I thought I cast him down so hard all the life went out of him. Oh no...Mr. Devil, the treasure in this pot is endless. I will rise again everyday in the mercies of the Lord we can not in Him be destroyed.

The next part is probably most vital in this whole argument of what Satan can not accomplish against this security that we have in Christ. ***II Corinthians 4:10*** expresses this truth, dying = life.

v.10 - Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

The more we die – the more we live. Why? When we crack the clay pot the life of God oozes out. We've got to get the life that is in us out on to the problem. This is why Paul says, "always" and he meant "always."

What does this mean? Is Christ himself really dying within our mortal bodies? Isn't Christ seated forever with the Father, never to face death again?

What Paul is saying in this is that Christ accomplished our redemption through his death. He received a standing of death for all men against the appetites of the flesh. I can now access this grace by faith and when I do something powerful happens to me. I receive his standing therefore; his death is executed in me. Sin did not have dominion over him, neither does it over us. We get the privilege of always (*all the time*) entering into his standing of death against our flesh.

What does this mean? When your flesh is alive it is hard to live in the peace and enjoy the true riches that the treasure within us brings. We might say it this way, when troubles, perplexities, persecutions and hard times come our way the flesh or clay pot wants to superimpose emotions and attitudes that suppress the life of God in us but if the death of Christ works within us, we can have no restraint placed on us by the flesh.

This is why Paul goes on to affirm that the life of Jesus also be made manifest in our body. This is our security and our confidence, that there is no kind of weather, nor any kind of diabolical scheme so well devised against us that His life can not reign in our flesh through it all.

How is this accomplished? There is a daily anointing that Paul mentions in verse 16, the one that dies daily. The scriptures say it this way in ***Lamentations 3:22-23 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.***

One of the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit is to deliver to us a daily portion of mercy and grace. The purpose for this anointing is to remove the thick walls of the “*clay pot*” or flesh. This is called death over the flesh or Christ’s death in us as mentioned in I Corinthians 4. This removes us from our dependency on our sufficiency and places it on the treasure within us. Which is Christ in us the hope of glory.

When the pot is cracked or broken there is no restriction for the life of Christ to flow out from our inner man. This not only brings a blessed life and peace to us, but also ministers life to everyone we come in contact with. This is the “life manifest in us.”

Please understand that the Holy Spirit does not use tragedy, heartache and sorrows to break our pot. All of these things were put on Jesus at the cross; He took them on our behalf. Why would He want us to carry something He has already carried for us?

He accomplishes this daily task by permission from us. When you give him the authority through a separated time of communion, this process is put into action. This precision of prayer is best carried out in the words of ***Romans 8:26 the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*** The spirit himself is making intercession for me and you, by the supernatural gift of praying in tongues.

The groanings mentioned here are supernatural words spoken by the Holy Spirit. Every word reflects the image of the treasure within us. Every word gives an element of change to the clay pot. This is why devoted times of praying in tongues is so necessary.

Friend this is our security in Christ for our future. The ministry of the Holy Spirit executes death to the clay pot. This in turn releases a continual flow of life from the treasure buried inside of us.

This gives us the continual assurance that there is nothing that can defeat us through Christ. The peace that we can feel at any high point is not subject to go away because of any challenge the enemy can bring to our future. Through that same peace we’re assured that we can always at the end stand and say, ***“I am more than a conqueror through Christ.” (Romans 8:37)***

Love,

Pastor Bronc

P.S. – If you are not familiar with the ministry of the Holy Spirit/ Tongues...please write us for instruction on how to receive the glorious gift. If you have a prayer request or a praise report to share please let us hear from you. You can contact us through the web site at www.broncflint.org or email us at fpc@broncflint.org and/or feel free to write us at:

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