

God's Green Thumb

What God Plants - Grows: **Peace**
John 16:28-33 and Philippians 4:4-9

Peace (*eirene*) refers to both **internal peace** in our hearts
and **relational peace** with others.

In Hebrew (*shalom*) peace with God

It is not just the **absence of conflict, out is the **presence** of someone.

**Paul doesn't specify in Galatians 5, so he likely has both definitions in mind.

Jesus tells his disciples that even in the midst of trouble and persecution, they can be filled with peace because he has "overcome the world"
John 16:33.

We have our own trouble.

And we know everyone else's trouble too.

Three things that everyone needs.

1 Corinthians 13

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.*

Three things everyone needs.

1. Someone to love (love)
2. Someone to trust (faith)
3. Something to believe in. (hope)

All three are found in John 16:30-35

The disciples just found out that the world was going to hate them.

- Because they hate Jesus
 - Because you're not part of the world's system
 - Because they don't know God
-

28 *I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.*

29 *Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."*

30 *Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. **This makes us believe that you came from God.***

31 *"Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. 32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.*

33 *"I have told you these things, **so that in me you may have peace.** In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:30-35

1 - In this world, you will have trouble.

World doesn't mean the physical planet, but it refers to the system of evil that dominates all human life (creation and humanity).

Trouble (*thlipsis*) means pressure, affliction and crushing distress.

(but)

2 - In me, you will have peace.

- You are loved by God.
- You are in God's everlasting care.
- God has a promise for your future.

(because)

3 - I have overcome the world.

But take heart (*tharseite*) It's a verb and its a command - every time its used (and its used a lot). Every time it is used in the New Testament it is used by Jesus. The words 'cheer up' become a divine promise.

Introduce Prayer Time

Music

Sermon Part 2

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*4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be **anxious** about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.

And the God of peace will be with you. Philipians 4:4-9

Anxious - *divided into parts - pulled in opposite directions.*
(opposite of shalom)

3 Ways to practice peace

(peace grows from the 'right' small stuff 'on repeat')

1. Look back before you plan forward.

(but don't get stuck in the past)

2. Schedule small to win big.

(Little things become big things - over time)

3. Make good choices - easier.

(Plan your life for transformation)