



EXPOSED

FINDING TRUTH IN TURMOIL

Introduction:

Peace is a condition of the soul. It's that state of well-being whereby our soul is content with our circumstances, rather than being at war with our circumstances. Jesus said we would face troubles, yet we've also been promised a peace that passes all understanding to guard our hearts and minds. So why does peace seem so elusive?

1. Describe a time when your soul was at war with your circumstances? How did you find peace? What can you use your experience to help lead others from their turmoil to peace?
2. Read John 16:33. What does it mean to you that Jesus has overcome? *How should* this truth affect your daily life? *How does* it really affect your daily life?
3. Read Luke 6:48. Pastor Paul shared that pain/tragedy in this life is a universal experience. We are living in a broken world due to sin and rebellion with God. He stated that in order to stay strong we have to put our faith and trust in God. We are to build our house on The Rock, Jesus Christ. What are some practical ways to do this?
4. The Shalom or Peace of God is based on trusting God. It is trusting in His character and His promises. Do you struggle with trusting God when trials come? Why do you think this happens in the lives of Christ-followers? Have we have shifted our focus to our circumstances, rather than pursuing God and His direction?
5. Read John 16:7-9. Jesus knew that unless He fulfilled what He came to do by suffering, being put to death and rising again, there would be no gospel. How does enduring and overcoming tribulation make the gospel of Christ real in our world? Would the gospel have the same impact and importance without the suffering and tragedy in the world?
6. Read John 15:15-16. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus chose you and that He calls you friend?
7. Pastor Paul gave four suggestions on maintaining a friendship with God: purposefully deciding in your heart to follow God; welcoming God into your life; refusing to conform to the world; practicing glorious living. What does it look like when these principles are practiced in daily life? Can you think of anyone you know who exhibits a strong friendship with God? How does he/she practice these principles?

Conclusion:

"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." (NIV)