

Bay City Wesleyan Church
November 19, 2017

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Sunday Morning 11-19-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/315304>

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Romans 15:13 NLT

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/rom.15.13.NLT>

Philippians 4:6-9 NLT

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/php.4.6-9.NLT>

[Image]

Following Jesus helps us to deal with changes and transitions in life

https://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1509242729541_152x152.jpg

Transitions happen to all of us. They are inevitable and inescapable. Some changes bring life, like a gentle spring rain. Others feel as devastating as a hurricane or tornado.

THE JOLT is that moment you realize your life has changed and no matter how badly you want to get back to "normal" you never will.

Jesus and his people are the comforters you need to deal with THE JOLTS you experience.

GRIEF is the emotional response to the loss of your old normal. Grief is a complex emotion.

When you want to find Jesus, hang out with brokenhearted people.

THE BATTLE often centers on questions about Jesus. Can I trust him?

The more jarring THE JOLT and the greater THE GRIEF, the more brutal THE BATTLE for your trust in Jesus will be.

You can trust Jesus completely, even when your world feels like it's falling apart around you.

John 14:27 NET

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be distressed or lacking in courage.

<https://bible.com/bible/107/jhn.14.27.NET>

John 16:33 NET

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage - I have conquered the world."

<https://bible.com/bible/107/jhn.16.33.NET>

You don't need a doctoral degree in Bible Study to know what that means. There's no escape. You will face losses, changes, and transitions in this broken world

No exceptions -

No exceptions - not even for Jesus.

Jesus is more trustworthy than your circumstances.

If you're like most people, you tend to think peace is dependent on your circumstances. You'll know all is well when everything is going well. Unfortunately, this world gives us everything but peace. You will seldom feel all is well on this broken planet. Fortunately, Jesus took the worst this world could dish out and he won. Now he offers you his peace. The consistent, victorious sense that all is well depends on connecting with Jesus. He will give you a peace that's free from your situation. How can you connect with Jesus in a way that eases your GRIEF and helps you receive his peace?

Sermon in a Sentence

Prayer is the key to receiving Jesus' peace.

"What do I say when I pray?"

1. What's on your mind?
2. Use a written prayer to start with.

"The Serenity Prayer"

by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

God grant me the serenity

To accept the things

I cannot change;

Courage to change

the things I can;

And wisdom to know

the difference.

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardships

as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make
all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be
reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next. Amen.