

You Call That Peace?

- I. Introduction: What is your idea of peace? Is it the absence of war? Is it just being left alone? What gives you a peaceful easy feeling like that old Eagles Song? Or could we go the opposite direction are you having a hard time recognizing peace in your life? Does it seem like the world is pressing in on you from all directions? When you do get a moment's peace does it seem to be fleeting? Or does the peace you long for never seem to come? What did Jesus mean when he said "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give you as the world gives." What kind of peace is not like the world gives?
- II. Flying is a passion of mine
 - A. Lesson one visual cues
 - 1. Horizon, sky, ground—outside the airplane you can tell how you're doing if you know what to look for.
 - 2. Compass, altimeter, airspeed helpful but not necessary in good weather
 - 3. Similar to when life is going well
 - B. What happens when you fly into a cloud?
 - 1. Visual cues are gone
 - 2. Lose your way, sense of direction, sense of balance,
 - 3. gages on the panel can save you
 - 4. you have to trust them, you have to know what they mean
 - 5. You have to remember they are there.

- 6. This is what happened to John Kennedy Jr.
- C. This is what it's like when trouble comes in our lives.
 - 1. The trouble obscures our view; we lose our visual cues.
 - 2. we get lost
 - 3. we forget about God who by the way is still there (just like the ground and the sky)
 - 4. pretty soon we are spinning out of control
- D. So how can we avoid losing control when trouble comes? Each of us is like a pilot flying a plane in good weather. As long as we are paying attention and can see it coming we can avoid trouble. But sometimes we can suddenly fly into a cloud.
 - 1. If you're already in the cloud, you need to remember to trust your instruments. Trust the Bible, trust God, trust what Jesus tells you. Matt. 28:20; John 14:27, Luke 1: 76 – 80; IICor.1: 2- 5 Philippians 4: 5 – 7
 - 2. Once you're in the cloud, the instruments will tell you if you are still traveling in the right direction, maintaining level flight, and whether or not you are climbing or diving.
 - 3. Trusting in the instruments will give you a sense of peace and calm even

though you are in potential trouble. Believe that you will eventually fly out of the cloud.

4. Those who survive the trouble when it comes are the ones who realize that trouble is going to come and prepare in advance for it. In flying they are familiar with the instruments on the panel. And even though they don't use them a lot, they know they are there, they know what they can do, and they trust them. In life it means remembering that there are scriptures in the bible that can help you find your faith if you have lost it. They are your compass, your artificial horizon, your airspeed indicator.
5. Concordance—word study—peace, love spirit.
- 6.

Conclusion: This is the kind of peace that Jesus gives. Peace that keeps you sane in an insane world. Peace that comes from knowing that Jesus has been through it all before, knows what you are going through, and has paved the way so that no matter what happens in this life, there is a better world waiting for you with Christ in the world tomorrow. It's not the world's idea of peace. It's a peace that comes from knowing Jesus is alive in you, a peace that you can sing about. It's peace that you can have today, that will keep you tomorrow.

Pray with me. Lord Jesus, today the world around us seems to be full of trouble. Rising prices are making it hard to make

ends meet. Our friends are losing their jobs even while they seem to be losing their health. We are hurting with grief, physical pain, worry, doubts, fears, and troubles. Our community is full of people who are not here worshipping you. Yet in spite of all this, you tell us we can have peace. You tell us not to fear the world, because you have overcome it. Lord send more of your holy spirit to us today. Those who are enjoying your peace, give them more. Those who are lost in a cloud give comfort, and direction, help them have the faith that you will see them through their time of trouble. Be with us Lord fill us with your peace. This we ask in your most precious name. AMEN