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# Do You Have Faith and Peace?

## JOHN 16:25-33

### Introduction

1. The question with which I have titled tonight's lesson is one which should cause each of us to pause and think.
  - a. How vibrant, how strong, is your faith?
  - b. Do you have the peace of God in your heart? A peace which overcomes the tribulation you will experience?
2. It is these two concepts which Jesus addresses with His disciples in our text, John 16:25-33.
3. Looking back at these men we might be tempted to ask ourselves why they were still struggling with the things Jesus had been telling them.
4. They had spent approximately 3 ½ years of their lives with Him, seeing His miracles and listening to His teaching.
5. However, on this evening, they still did not understand . . .
  - a. What was about to happen. As I mentioned last week, Jesus had repeatedly told His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem to suffer and die, (Matthew 16:21; 17:12; Mark 8:31; 9:12; Luke 9:22; 17:25) but they didn't get it.

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- b. Where He was going. Why they couldn't go with Him.
  - 1) "Little children, I am with you a little while longer . . . Where I am going, you cannot come" (John 13:33).
  - 2) [Peter] "Lord, where are You going?" (John 13:36), and "Lord, why can I not follow You right now?" (John 13:37)

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- 3) “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. “And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”” (**John 14:3–5, NASB95**)

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- 4) “A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” Some of His disciples then said to one another, “What is this thing He is telling us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father’?” So they were saying, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.”” (**John 16:16–18, NASB95**)

6. In these final verses of John 16, Jesus tells the eleven . . .
- Why they haven’t understood Him and how that is about to change.
  - About a new relationship they will have with the Father.
  - The peace which He gives to them.

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## **I. What Will Change About Jesus’ Communication With His Disciples?**

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### **A. THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY, JESUS HAD SPOKEN TO THE CROWDS IN PARABLES**

- Early in His ministry, the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him why He spoke to them in parables (Matthew 13:10).
- Jesus gave them three reasons:
  - He was communicating through parables in order to continue revealing truth to His disciples (Matthew 13:11-12).
  - He spoke in parables to hide the truth from unbelievers.

“Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the

mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. “For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.” (Matthew 13:11–12, NASB95)

c. He spoke in parables in order to fulfill Isaiah 6:9-10.

“He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand.’ “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.”” (Isaiah 6:9–10, NASB95)

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**B. THE TIME WOULD COME WHEN JESUS’ WOULD NO LONGER SPEAK TO HIS DISCIPLES IN FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

“These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.” (John 16:25, NASB95)

1. We understand what He was saying to them that evening because we now have the complete picture before us.
2. However, they still did not understand that He was about to die.
3. They didn’t what He meant by His going away for a while and then returning.
4. They didn’t fully understand the concept of the Holy Spirit.
5. So much of what He was saying to them was still beyond their ability to comprehend.
6. Jesus acknowledged that He had been speaking to them in “figurative language,” but promised “an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but tell you plainly of the Father” (John 16:25).
7. That hour was a reference to His resurrection from the dead.
8. From then until His ascension back to His Father, a period of 40 days, Jesus

would be able to speak to them “plainly of the Father” (v. 25).

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## C. THEIR NEW RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER

“In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.” (John 16:26–27, NASB95)

1. Jesus is looking to the time after the resurrection and the bestowal of the Spirit.
2. What Jesus says here is not a contradiction of others passages in the N.T. which speak of our Lord’s intercessory work (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; cf. 1 John 2:1).

“who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.” (Romans 8:34, NASB95)

“Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25, NASB95)

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;” (1 John 2:1, NASB95)

3. Instead, He is explaining to them that there will be no need for the Son to persuade the Father to be gracious because the entire work of the Son is the result of the loving care of the Father who sent Him.
4. God loves the disciples because they love Christ and believe that He came from God (v. 27).
5. The Father’s response to us is based upon our response to the Son.

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6. In verse 28, Jesus describes His coming from the Father to earth and back

again:

“I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.” (John 16:28, NASB95)

- a. “I came forth from the Father” (v. 28a).
  - b. “I . . . have come into the world” (v. 28b).
  - c. “I am leaving the world again and going to the Father” (v. 28c).
7. Jesus’ words prompt the disciples to say that He is no longer using figures of speech (v. 29).
  8. The disciples do not say that they understand all He is saying but that they know He knows all things (v. 30).

“Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God.” (John 16:30, NASB95)

- a. Perhaps they know this from the supernatural knowledge He has demonstrated or from the way He has handled His questioners.
- b. Either way, it gives them assurance of His divine origin.

## II. The Disciples’ Faith And Peace

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#### A. THEIR FAITH

“Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? “Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.” (John 16:30–32, NASB95)

1. The disciples had just told Jesus that His supernatural knowledge caused them to believe that He came from God.
2. However, Jesus questioned their confidence, “Do you now believe?” (v. 31).

3. Jesus didn't call into question the reality of their faith, but adequacy of it.
4. They do believe, but will their faith withstand the difficulty and danger which are soon to come?
5. The disciples do not yet understand some of the important consequences of faith in Him.
6. Jesus knew these same men who had vowed they would not deny Him would all flee when He was arrested in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:56).
7. Though these men would leave Jesus alone, He would not be alone because the Father would be with Him.

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8. This is reminiscent of an experience which the apostle Paul had during His imprisonment in Rome (2 Timothy 4:16-18).

“At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:16–18, NASB95)

**Slide 12****B. THEIR PEACE**

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you [will] have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, NASB95)

1. Our Lord's words conclude on a note of peace and victory.
2. There are three contrasts found in what He says:
  - a. “in Me” is set over against “in the world”
  - b. “you may have” over against “you [will] have”
  - c. “peace” over against “tribulation”

3. Here, Jesus points to two things:
  - a. The life which all of us must lead. All of us *must* live in the world and have tribulation.
  - b. The life which all do not lead, a life in Christ. We *may* live in Christ and have peace.
4. Christ encourages the disciples by telling them He has overcome (conquered, prevailed over) the world.
5. To someone looking on from the outside, the cross would seem to be our Lord's total defeat.
6. He, however, saw it as His complete victory over all that the world is or can do to Him.
7. He went to the cross, not in fear or gloom, but as a conqueror.

## **Conclusion**

1. Let me conclude tonight's lesson by asking the two questions with which I began:
  - a. How vibrant, how strong, is your faith? Is it a faith which allows you to be victorious over the world?
  - b. Do you have a peace in your heart which is able to overcome the tribulation you will experience in your life?
2. Jesus offers you both of these — a victorious faith and an inner peace which prevails in life's storms.
3. Both of these are found only in Him.
4. Is this something you would like to have in your life tonight?
5. If so, He invites you to turn from the sin in your life and turn to Him in obedient faith.
6. Let Him wash away you sin and the guilt that comes with it.