

Having Peace in Your Life

(video transcript)

By Karen Spiegelberg

[*Karen is reading a script.*] Oh, hi! Today I'm coming to you from a reproduction of the "I Love Lucy" set here at Salty Earth Pictures.



"Quiet on the set!"

I've always wanted to do that, but actually that's the role of our fearless leader here. And why does the director yell this? In order to have the audio record clearly, he needs a quiet or a peace on the set.

I'm Karen Spiegelberg. Welcome to A WORD for Women—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life!

What does the word "peace" mean to you? Does it mean a quiet house, or a family that isn't fighting? Does it mean an end to war? "Peace" can mean all these things from a worldly standpoint.

But what should "peace" as a Fruit of the Spirit look like and feel like in our lives?

I heard a comedian recently tell how he had made his weekly call to his grandma, and the conversation went kind of like this:

[*Comedian in a low pitched voice*] Hi Grandma!

[*Grandma in a high pitched voice*] Hi Honey, how was your day?

[*Comedian*] Well Grandma, it was really cold here, my car wouldn't start and then when it did and I got to the video store they didn't have the movie I wanted so I had to drive all the way back home. It was kind of a bummed day, Grandma. How 'bout you?

[*Grandma*] Well Honey, another one of my friends died today. I don't get out anymore, and my heart still hurts every time I breathe. But all is well here, Honey. Really, all is well.

The comedian then went on to say, "Grandma always wins! No matter what garbage is going on in my life, Grandma wins."

Hmmm, I don't think Grandma is playing to win anything, do you? It sounds to me that she knows what true peace feels like and then, shows it in her life. The grandson seems to believe that peace is a result of circumstances going on in his life. That's a worldly view of peace.

God's peace isn't related to circumstances or freedom from pain or trouble—it's a deep abiding tranquility.

They say there's a certain depth where the ocean remains completely calm despite howling wind that drives on the surface, and similarly there's a peace in Christ that transcends all troubles, and this peace is the Fruit of the Spirit.

In John 14:27 (NIV) we read, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

On the most violent day of Jesus' earthly life and the most heart-wrenching day for his early disciples, Jesus gave them peace. And three days later when he rose from the dead, he said, "Peace be with you." [John 20:21].

"Peace" was born into the world through Jesus, he lived his life in perfect peace, and then he left his peace for us. He gives this amazing gift of peace!

Have you ever receive an amazing gift—one that just overwhelmed you and took you aback? That's how we should look at this incredible gift of peace that he gave us, and he left it for us to rule in our hearts and to further and benefit his kingdom on earth.

But how do we attain to a greater level of peace in our lives? By putting this gift up on a shelf as we do with some gifts? We attain to a greater level of peace by being close to God in his Word, through worship services, Bible studies—knowing his will—that's peace in God. And once we experience his peace in our hearts, we can have peace with ourselves.

Peace with ourselves means refusing to live in guilt or condemnation because God is greater than all of our sins. He sent his son to die on a cross and take away all of our sins, guilt included. We know this and yet we struggle over past mistakes and present weaknesses. As women, this is an area that can be particularly tough. I mean after all, we're the queens of guilt, are we not?

Ladies, we need to get over those things that hold us back from experiencing God's peace. Because when we let garbage creep in, it chokes us and our faith. When we have peace from God and then peace with ourselves, people around us will see the Fruit of the Spirit evident in our lives and how we handle situations and circumstances around us.

After Hurricane Katrina hit the coastal areas, a woman interviewed on the news said, "We had just built our dream home. We had everything we ever wanted. Our life was perfect! And now our life is over."

I'm sure that family went through an awful ordeal, but with the peace of Christ in our hearts, would we be able to handle that situation differently?

I remember years ago a van accident in the Milwaukee area where a Christian couple lost six of their children, and yet that family got on the local news and showed the peace of Christ in their lives and the trust in God's plan through their tragedy.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts in all circumstances—be Christ-like, and then when that fruit of peace is evident in your life it will also make the Gospel you proclaim made more easily heard by unbelievers around you. Take this wonderful gift of peace and use it every day and every way in your life.

In Matthew 7:16 (NIV) we read, “By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Thank you for joining us on A WORD for Women, and peace be with you.

“That’s a wrap!” Get it? A wrap?...

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