



Eagle Vision Partner Letter

Peace in the Storm

March 2003

Dear Partner,

I pray this letter finds you prospering and in good health. This month we will be discussing the subject of peace. Webster's dictionary defines peace as a state of tranquility, freedom of war or quarreling, calm. The Bible says in **Isaiah 26:3** "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." The Hebrew word for peace used in this verse is shalom. **Shalom** means peace, completeness, welfare, good health, safe, happy, prosperity, favor, rest and wholeness.

One of the first characteristics that I noticed when I was born-again was the overwhelming amount of peace that I received. No matter what I was facing or what I was going through, I had peace. You must understand, when I was in the world I was a 'chief sinner', so when I gave my life to God His peace even helped to clear my conscience. I've made my share of mistakes, but overall I have learned to keep my eyes stayed on Jesus and He has always caused me to experience His peace.

Over the past few years, I have found that in order to stay in peace, we must keep our cares cast on the Lord. God never designed us to carry cares (stress). That is why He tells us in **1 Peter 5:6-8**:

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Notice that the scripture says "...whom he may devour". This tells us that Satan cannot devour everyone. Satan tries to devour people with stress--stress on the job, stress in your relationships (family & friends) & stress in your finances. **When you are stressed, you are focused on the problem & not the promise. For every problem in your life, there is a promise from God to take care of it!** As you keep your mind stayed on God, He will bring you "through" the storm victoriously every time and you will not be devoured.

In **Luke 8:22-25**, Jesus and His disciples faced a great storm, but instead of Jesus panicking, He spoke to the circumstances (the wind and the water) and there was a great calm. We should follow His example when the storms of life come our way. What you focus on in the storm determines how long you stay in it and how you come out of it. The disciples allowed the storm and the water that was entering the boat to stress them. Their focus kept them in the storm and didn't change anything for the better. Jesus was in the same storm and the same boat, but His

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at the Kiwanis Park Recreational Center, 2526 Noble Road, Raleigh, NC.

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focus and His action caused peace to come and the storm ceased. When storms come in our life, let's react like Jesus did. Focus on the peace of God and speak to the storm.

According to **Ezekiel 37:36**, we also have a covenant of peace. This means a vow has been made, by God, to provide peace for us-- and He cannot break that vow. **Philippians 4:6-9** says

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

⁹ *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

The following are helpful steps to keep your peace:

1. Keep your focus on **God and His Word**-- not your circumstances.
2. **Focus on the positives** in your life and not the negative.
3. **Pray God's Word** over negative circumstances and negative people.
4. **Stay carefree!** (Everything that you care, worry or are stressed about, cast it on the Lord and leave it there.)

Make a choice, "Complain and remain" or "Praise and see good days".

No matter what your situation is—family, job, church, friends or finances-- God has already worked things out for you. Just keep your thoughts on Him (and His promises) and you will see His promises come to pass in your life!

In His Love,

Harold M. Council
Senior Pastor

MINISTRY UPDATE

Since October 2002, we have had 20 people saved and many others delivered and touched by the power of God. As always, we truly appreciate all of your prayers, encouragement and financial support. We pray for our Partners and Supporters everyday and we will continue to speak God's blessings and peace over your lives.

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