

Peace for Anxious Hearts

John 14:1-14 - NCBC, October 16, 2016

Main Point: **Anxious hearts find peace in Christ.**

- Look forward to your eternal home in God's presence (1-3)
- Rest in Christ alone as your way home (4-6)
- Know that God Himself is with you (7-11)
- Pray now for God's greater glory (12-14)

Application: **Stop worrying. Keep trusting God.**

Opening Announcements:

<<That Where I Am>>



Thank you worship team. Church are you thankful for your fellow members who volunteer themselves to help lead our singing every week? Yes, we are so thankful for how God has placed every member in His body with unique gifts for His greater glory and praise!

At this time please open your Bibles to **the Gospel of John chapter 14**, where we continue our study in the upper room together.



If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, please catch the attention of the ushers now. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just simply return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of the room.

Let's quickly review what we've learned about Foundations for Upward Ministry so far.

| The Gospel of John | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1:1 - 1:18 | 1:19 - 4:54 | 5:1 - 12:50 | 13:1-17:26 | 18:1-21:25 |
| Divisions | Incarnation of the Son of God | Presentation of the Son of God | Opposition to the Son of God | Preparation of the Son's Disciples | Crucifixion & Resurrection of the Son of God |
| Topics | Seven Miracles "That You May Believe" | | | Upper Room "That You May Have Life" | Supreme Miracle |
| Time | A Few Years | | A Few Hours | A Few Weeks | A Few Weeks |

The Gospel of John has 5 significant sections to it. First the Incarnation of the Son of God. Then the Son of God is presented with all His miracles...and opposed. These first 12 chapters cover a few short years of time.

| The Gospel of John | | | | | |
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| Time | A Few Years | | A Few Hours | A Few Weeks | A Few Weeks |

Next comes chapters 13-17 which cover just a few hours of time. The upper room is where Christ begins preparing the 11 disciples for His death and their future ministry. So far in chapter 13,

| The Gospel of John | | | | | |
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| | 1:1 - 1:18 | 1:19 - 4:54 | 5:1 - 12:50 | 13:1-17:26 | 18:1-21:25 |
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| Time | A Few Years | | A Few Hours | A Few Weeks | A Few Weeks |

John 13
Upward Foundations

Christ's Love
"He loved them to the end"

Unmasked Hypocrisy
"one of you will betray Me"

Building Blocks
Glory of God
New Commandment Love
Dependent Humility

we've noted the foundation of Christ's love – unmasking our hypocrisy, and helping us to ...build upon God's greater glory, fulfill the new commandment in our love towards other believers, and live out a dependent humility.

So we come now to chapter 14 – where Jesus offers peace for anxious hearts.



You will find **John chapter 14** on **page 901** in the giveaway Bibles this morning.

Please stand with me in honor of God's Word as I read from **John chapter 14**. Starting in **verse 1**, reading from the English Standard translation:

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

These are the Words of our Lord. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

Let not your hearts be troubled...

Fitting words for the 11 eleven disciples in the room that night with Jesus. John had watched in dismay as Judas was identified to be Jesus' betrayer...and then left the group to go out into darkness.

Then Jesus had told his followers that He was going away, and where He was going they could not follow.

And just now all the 11 disciples had just heard Jesus say those staggering words from chapter 13:38,

Truly, truly, I say to you [Peter], the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

The anxious perplexity of this evening must have been staggering to these 11 disciples. They had left everything to follow Jesus...and now Jesus was leaving them?! What would this mean for them as a group? As individuals? Jesus has just told Peter he wouldn't even make it through the night!

Have you ever experienced such disorienting turmoil of the soul? Sometimes trouble comes crashing upon us in tsunami waves...sometimes our souls are troubled with the daily drip of mundane disappointments ...but certainly we've all been introduced to this unholy turmoil of soul that we call anxiety. Soul trouble. Worry. Confusion and

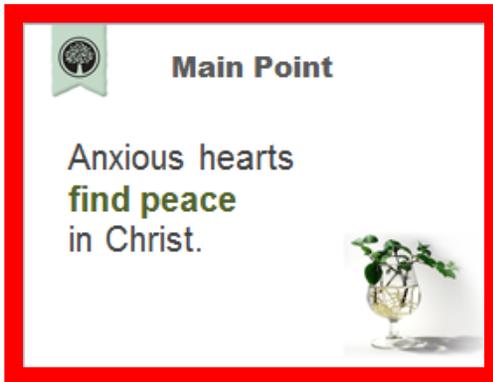
distress mixed with all kinds of fretful possibilities makes the recipe for an anxious soul.

We all must engage with this uneasy giant.

Today some of you are watching your children travel a prodigal path. Or your marriage is drifting further and further apart. Perhaps your health is failing, or you are facing an overwhelming assignment at work or school.

Some of us wrestle with questions about whether we will ever get married. Or whether we will ever be able to have children? Or whether this pain of grief and loneliness will ever loosen its deadening grip on our souls? Will I be able to keep my faith until the end of my life?

Loved ones... God is speaking to you this morning – right at the place of your greatest anxiety. Today's Scripture offers real help and hope for you today. For Jesus teaches how we can stop letting our hearts be troubled.



Main Point

Anxious hearts
find peace
in Christ.

The graphic features a red border, a small circular icon with a tree, and a photograph of a green plant in a clear glass vase.

Anxious hearts find peace in Christ.

Jesus is the answer for your stirred up soul. So lean in and listen up with your troubled heart.

For the next 27 verses, Jesus lovingly teaches anxious hearts how to find peace by trusting in Him in the midst of trouble. And His teaching is as relevant for us today as it was for the 11 disciples around the table that night in the upper room.

Verse 1 – *Let not your hearts be troubled.* Stop being troubled. *Believe in God, believe also in me.*

In other words – your faith in God will help you overcome this present anxiety of your soul. Disciples – you believe in God even though you can't see Him... so keep believing also in Me, Jesus says. Keep trusting God even through this dark storm of your soul.

But perhaps you weakly respond, Lord – I want to trust you...but the pain is so deep I'm not even sure how to keep believing in you right now.

And so Jesus gets very practical for His weak disciples. He sympathizes with your weakness, and encourages you first to

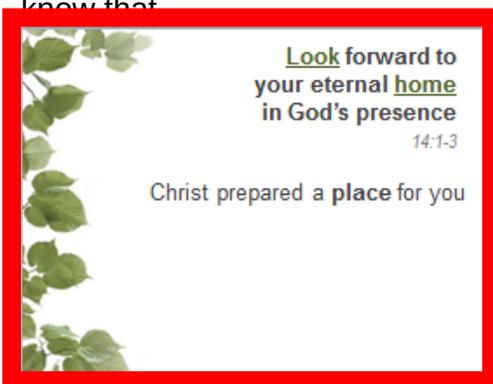


Look forward to your eternal home in God's presence.

Remember dear child of God – you have an eternal home. In the very presence of God! Verse 2 –

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Now you might underline the word “place” wherever it occurs in these two verses. For Christ wants you to know that



He has prepared a place *for you*.

There's no place like home is there? When you have a loving Father – there's nothing like being at home in His presence.

So even while you're surrounded by trouble right now... Look forward to your eternal home... for in the Father's house there are many rooms... some translations say “mansions” from the Latin Vulgate translation. But the word comes from the word abide...meno ... meaning abiding places, dwelling places.

Translation: Your future is secure. There's a light at the end of this tunnel. Jesus has prepared a place *for you*. Don't be troubled... There's a dwelling place *for you* in the eternal home. And you will not be a guest...but in the Father's presence... you will be completely at home. Christ Himself has prepared this for you.

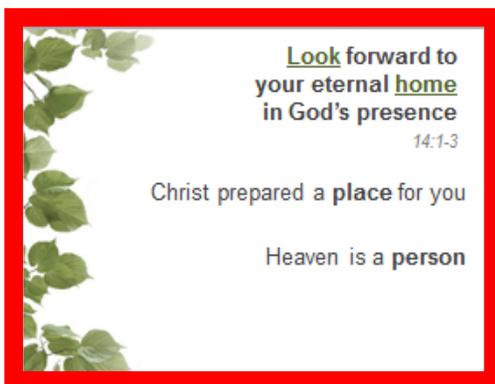
Now what does Jesus mean by saying “I go to prepare a place for you?”

Christ's point is not that heaven is still under construction and He has to get back and finish building heaven before we get there. The dwelling place of God and His family has always been perfect in its splendor and beauty.

Notice how Jesus comforts the disciples in verse 3,

If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself...underline that word "myself" ... that where I am you may be also.

In other words,



Heaven is a person. The place is a person. Wherever Jesus is, it is heaven to us!

So when Jesus says I go to prepare a place for us – he’s speaking of preparing His own body as our sacrifice... that by His substitutionary death we might be granted welcomed access into God’s holy presence forever.

The saving work of Christ opened the way and made it possible that where He is, you may forever be!

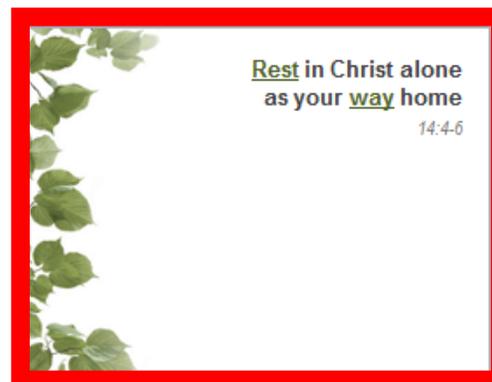
So in the midst of your present trouble... look forward. God has made a way – even though you may not see any way out...God has made sufficient provision that you are able to live with Him forever.

Revelation 21:3 describes heaven in this same way,

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

This is heaven. Look forward to it. It’s better than mansions spread across hilltops... it’s going to be you permanently dwelling together with God Himself... completely at home and at peace.

So trust God with your future. Keep believing in God. But here in the meantime,



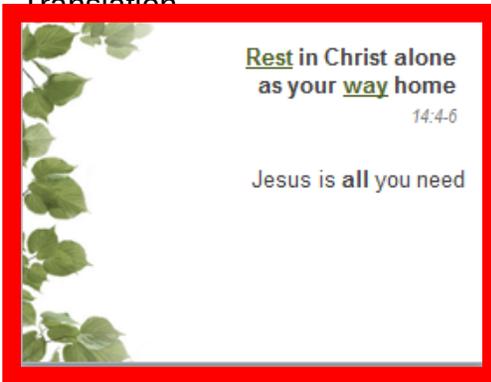
Rest in Christ alone as your way home (4-6)

The key word in the next 3 verses is the word “way.” Because anxious hearts are always looking for the way... the way out. The way to relief ...the way to peace...

And so Jesus – after directing the disciples thoughts to their forever future together in His presence... says,

And you know the way to where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Translation



Jesus is all you need.

You can rest in Christ alone. He's your way home.

Jesus tells the disciples that they know where he is going. But Thomas speaks up for the confused disciples. Jesus you've told us that we can't come where you're going. So how can we know the way?

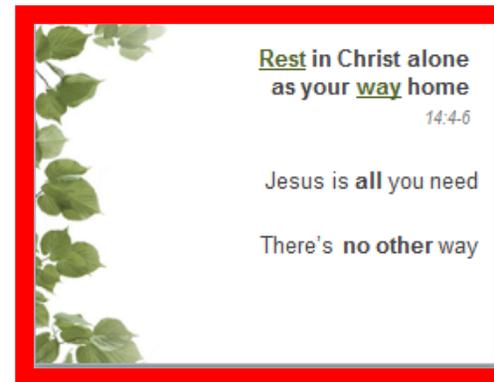
Perhaps you can relate to Thomas' question here. It all seems so confusing. How can someone actually know the way to heaven? What do I have to do in order to find my way home to Jesus' blessed side forever?

And the answer from Jesus' lips in verse 6 is striking. I AM the way, the truth and the life. Jesus Himself is your way home.

When you believe in Jesus... you have all that you need. He is the great I AM that I AM – the fully sufficient God. He is truth, and He is life.

In other words – since Jesus is the way – He's coming for you! This is such good news. You don't need to try to figure out how to find life in the midst of your deadness... Just believe in Jesus' finished work on your behalf. Jesus is the way to a relationship with God.

You see friend,



There's no other way.

Jesus makes it clear – No one comes to the Father except through me. That's very exclusive. There's only one way to your eternal home – and it's Jesus.

Troubled hearts exert a lot of energy trying to figure out what to do to fix the situation. Worry is like a rocking chair... it uses a lot of energy, but gets you nowhere.¹ Like Proverbs says, *There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is the way to death.*²

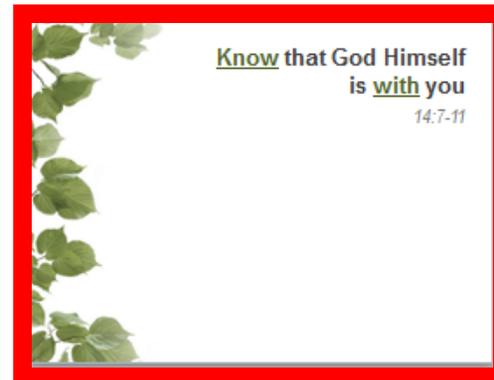
So troubled soul... rest in Christ alone. Repent of your despair. Repent of your pride. And believe on Jesus Christ alone.

There's no other way your anxious soul will find peace. Salvation is found in no one else...for there is no other name by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Do you realize the wonder of these verses for us today? This means that TODAY is the day of salvation!! This could be the last opportunity you will ever have. You may not hear the Gospel ever again. The Holy Spirit may not knock on the door of your heart ever again. If God is speaking to you at this moment... answer His invitation and come to believe on Christ! Let Christ be your life and your way!! He will lead you into the welcome acceptance of God Himself!!

So TODAY ... trust in Christ for all that you need, and then also,

1 Glenn Turner,
<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/g/glennturne108587.html>
2 Proverbs 14:12; 16:25



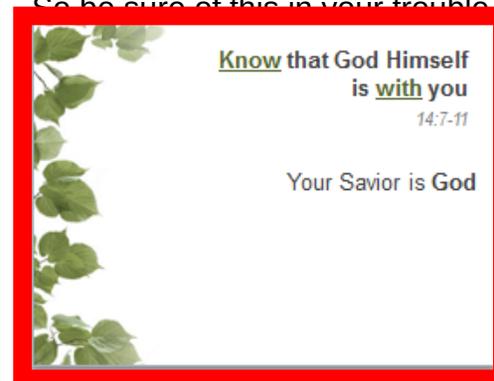
Know that God Himself is with you (7-11)

This is very good news to an anxious heart. God Himself is with you. Look again at verse 7,

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Jesus has made God known. Jesus is the Word become flesh – dwelling among the disciples so that they could see the glory of the only Son from the Father – full of grace and truth.

So be sure of this in your trouble.



Your Savior is God Himself.

Your Deliverer is Sovereign Ruler and Ancient of Days!
And God is with you – you're not a forgotten orphan – but
a beloved treasure of King Jesus.

In the middle of your distress and worry ... have you ever
found yourself wishing that God Himself would just show
up in the flesh alongside you and help you?

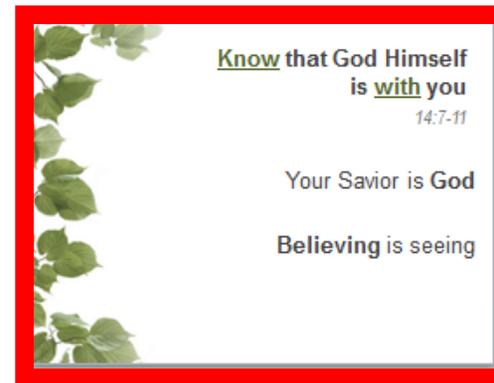
You and Philip would get along real good. Verse 8...

Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.

Lord ... if you have to go away... just give us one thing –
show us the Father...that will be enough then. All our
anxieties will be put to rest if we could just see God here
with us.

Can you relate with Philip's request this morning? Lord –
if only you were here ...I would be ok.

But Jesus wants to teach us that God Himself *is* with us
today... for contrary to the popular saying,



Believing is seeing.

Philip asked for sight – Jesus told him to seek faith
instead...verse 9,

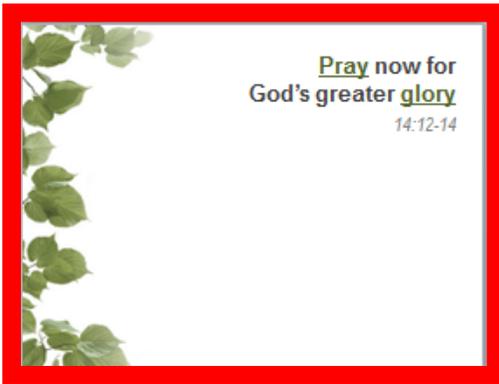
⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Jesus does not call for blind faith. He calls for a thinking
faith. Believe His words. Or at least believe His works.

So now when you think of your present trouble – no
matter how large or small it may be – are you seeing God
in it? How you ask? By faith. Are you believing in the
words and works of Jesus? Are you preaching to
yourself wonderful words of life? Are you remembering

the miraculous work of God's grace in your conversion? Are you praying your soul deeper into trusting in Christ's words and works?

When faith opens the eyes of your heart to see God, you will start to talk with him. So it's no wonder that Jesus goes on to encourage the disciples in the upper room to,



Pray now for God's greater glory (12-14)

Jesus wants the disciples to know that even though He's physically going away... greater things are coming. Verse 12

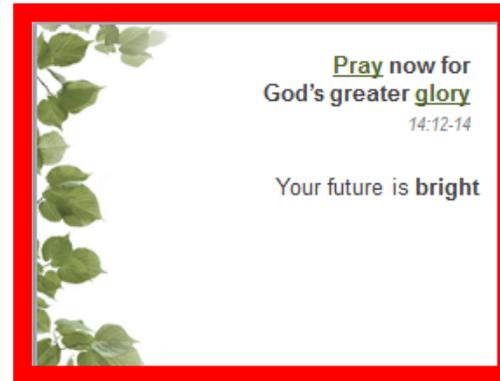
"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

This is incredible! Jesus had healed the sick, calmed the troubled sea, fed thousands, raised the dead. These were great works, probably the greatest miracles we can imagine! We cannot do them. So what does it mean that

we will do the works that Jesus does, and even greater works than these will the believer do?

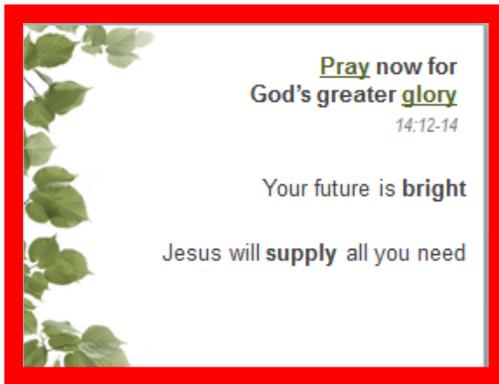
Well Jesus is not referring power ...but scope.

Remember Jesus' earthly ministry was limited in time and space. His formal ministry was only a little more than 3 years. And always within the boundaries of Palestine. When Jesus ascended back to our Father, there were just a small handful of believers on the earth. But in the years to follow, the number of conversions brought about by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel to the nations would number into the millions of souls. So Jesus wanted the disciples to know that even though your soul is anxious now,



Your future is bright.

The Holy Spirit is coming and He will empower your ministry for greater glory. And remember as well that



Jesus will supply all that you need.

Don't worry but keep believing on God. And pray. Verse 13,

¹³ *Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* ¹⁴ *If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*

Great resources are available every believer in the name of Christ. Although Christ is not physically present, every believer can speak to God in the very name of His Son Christ Himself!

So what does this mean to pray "in Jesus' name"? It's not a magic formula that somehow obligates God to answer our every wish.

It just means to pray in line with Christ's person and works. To acknowledge my own neediness... and to make my requests in a manner that is consistent with God's will.

In brief – it means that every believer has the privilege of talking with God on the merits of Christ Himself. When you pray in faith – aligning your heart to His will – He promises "*this I will do*".

What an amazing promise! Jesus here assures anxious souls that even though He is not with us in the flesh anymore... when we talk to God in faith and in keeping with Christ Himself – He Himself will be the one who answers our prayers!

But not all spiritual requests by Christians are going to be answered. Jesus is clear that that purpose of our prayers should be that *the Father may be glorified in the Son*.

We are not taught to pray, "Hallowed be my name" ... or My kingdom come. No. If our prayers are truly going to be in the name of Jesus, then they will ultimately desire what Jesus desires. And what does Jesus desire? The glory of God! That the attributes and activities of God would be put on display!! That others would be given a greater view of the amazing reputation of God Himself!

What peace can be yours when you pray. Everyone who believes in Jesus can speak with God Himself – anytime and anywhere – there is no trouble which can separate us now from His love. And Jesus will never fail.

Main Point

Anxious hearts
find peace
in Christ.

Anxious hearts truly can find peace in Christ.

Application

Stop worrying.
Keep trusting
- God.

Stop worrying. Keep trusting God.

There are many pressures which can surround you and stir up unholy turmoil in your soul. But stop wasting your energy on worry. Do not let your heart continue to be troubled in these dark and evil times.

Keep trusting God. Jesus loves you, and is speaking into your heartache this morning.

Look forward to your eternal dwelling together with God Himself. Rest in the truth that Christ has prepared a way for you, and He is the only way home to God for you. Don't leave here today without anchoring your soul in this conviction of faith.

And then know that God Himself is with you. No matter what you are going through – Nothing can separate you from God. And your Savior is trustworthy – He's God Himself. And He will never waste your trial. So instead of fretting, use your energy to pray for God's greater glory. Pray that God would purpose to work through your present suffering for His greater glory in the end. Pray that Jesus Himself would hallow His Name in and through your continued faith in the midst of this dark hour.

Let not your hearts be troubled disciples. Keep believing in God.

UPPER ROOM:
Foundations
For Upward Ministry

John 14:1-14

*Peace for
Anxious Hearts*

Let's pray.

<<All to Us>>

Let's pray our Benediction now as we are dismissed,



Benediction

May the **grace** of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the **love** of **God**, and the **fellowship** of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14
Amen.