

## ***Peace for Anxious Hearts – Part 2***

John 14:15-31 - NCBC, October 23, 2016

Main Point: **Anxious hearts find peace in the wonder of the Holy Spirit.**

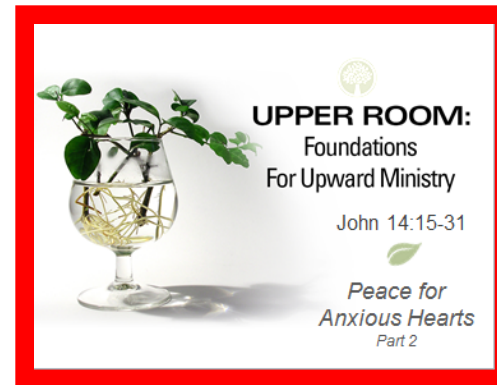
- **God joins us (15-20)**
  - To help us obey Him from the heart (15)
  - To live in us forever (16-18)
  - To show us more of Himself (19-20)
- **God changes us (21-24)**
  - Into a lover of God (21-24)
  - Into a witness for God (22)
  - Into a temple of God (23)
- **God teaches us (25-26)**
  - In order to glorify Jesus Christ (25-26a)
  - To understand all spiritual truth (26b)
  - To remember His words (26c)
- **God comforts us (27-31)**
  - By giving us His peace (27a)
  - By grace through faith (27b)
  - By assuring us of His victory (28-31)

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

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### **Opening Announcements:**

<<This I Believe>>



Do you believe in Jesus Christ today? Do you believe that He is coming back again to make right all the wrongs, and take you to be with Him forever? Faith in Christ brings peace to anxious hearts.

That's the message of **John chapter 14!**



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.



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

In honor of God's Word, I'd invite you to stand as I read from **John chapter 14**. Starting in **verse 15**, reading from the English Standard translation, Jesus teaches:

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my

Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. <sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

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

**Let's Pray.**

Today we come to the wonderful subject of God's Spirit! So often misunderstood by the modern church – the Holy Spirit is either postured as the Forgotten God – as people live legalistically apart from His indwelling power –or the Spirit is the Freaky God – as people mystically live in constant pursuit of higher ecstatic experiences. But church – when you understand God's Spirit for who He really is,



Anxious hearts find peace in the wonder of the Holy Spirit.

It's like what happened several years ago to my parents.

Growing up my brothers and I loved to snorkel in the ocean. But dad is more of a land-lubber. He never could enjoy it. He sinks in the water, and his goggles would always leak. Dad still maintains to this day that salt water burns his eyes more than it burns anyone else's eyes!

So a couple of years ago Mom convinced him to give it another go...without the pressure of us three rowdy boys urging him on. Dad's greatest concern was that he didn't want to get any salt water in his eyes...so before they even left the room Mom helped him put the goggles on, get them properly adjusted, make sure they were comfortably tight, and good to go.

Then they took their time going into the water on a calm day, just knee deep, all the while Mom was assuring him just to relax, and try to enjoy it.

So Dad gently started to float...and immediately... stood up in blubbering desperation. Mom asked, "what's wrong, did you get water in your goggles?" Dad replied in frustration, "Right away! Right away!"

Confused, mom looked closer, and noticed to her shock...that Dad's goggles were missing one of the lenses!

It was back in the room all the time!

They had been so close to the truth, and in some ways so familiar with it, that they didn't even notice what they were missing.

I think this can happen to us sometimes... especially as it relates to the wonder of God's Spirit. We can live apart from God's power and influence, without even being aware that we are setting ourselves up for spiritual failure.

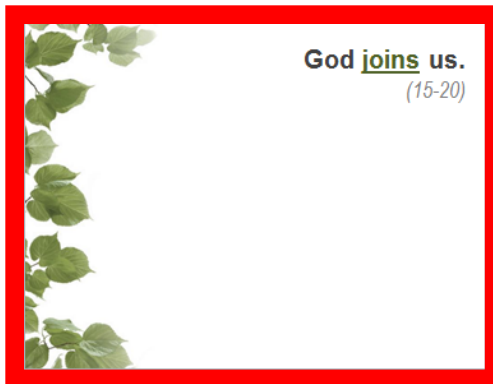
So I ask you this morning, as you navigate these anxious days, are you living in the supernatural power and presence of the Holy Spirit...or have you contented yourself with some cheaper substitute?

John chapter 14 teaches anxious hearts how to find peace ... in the wonder of the Holy Spirit!

Look at chapter 14 with me now. In verses **1-6**, Jesus assures the disciples that by believing in Him they have a home in heaven. And Jesus is the way home. In verses

7-11, they are reminded that even though Jesus is going away, they still know the Father. In verses 12-14 Jesus reminds them of their privilege of prayer – and that He is able to hear and answer their prayers even from heaven.

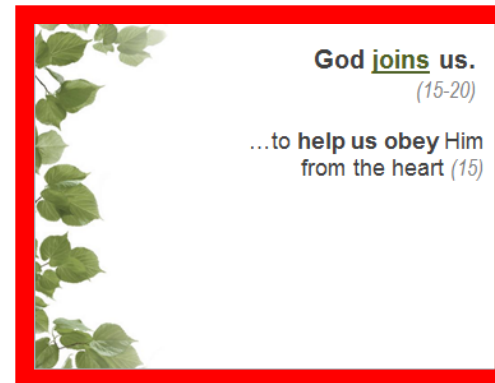
And then in verse 15 we find our first truth about the Wonder of God's Spirit for us today. Jesus wants his disciples – He wants us today – to know that in His Holy Spirit,



God joins us (15-20)

We are not left alone. No orphans in God's family. Because of the Holy Spirit, we are not helpless nor hopeless.

In verse 15 we see that God joins us...



to help us obey Him from the heart (15)

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

How do you assess whether you love Jesus?

As Jesus looked into the sad faces of the 11 disciples around the table, He wanted them to understand what it truly meant to love Him. You don't prove your love to Jesus by weeping or lamenting or throwing a pity-party at His departure. The true test of love for God is not how many emotions we can express. No.... Love is shown by ongoing practical obedience to His commands.

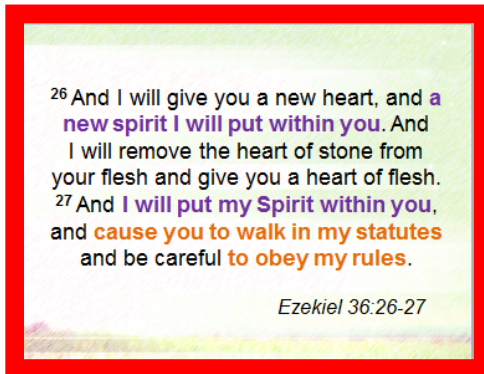
So let me ask you: Are you in the practice of keeping God's commandments?

For sure, keeping God's commands is not what saves us. God alone saves us by grace through faith. But obedience is the proof of genuine love.<sup>1</sup> To disobey Christ is to love something more than Him. You cannot say you love God if you are not seeking to obey Him.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 2:3-5

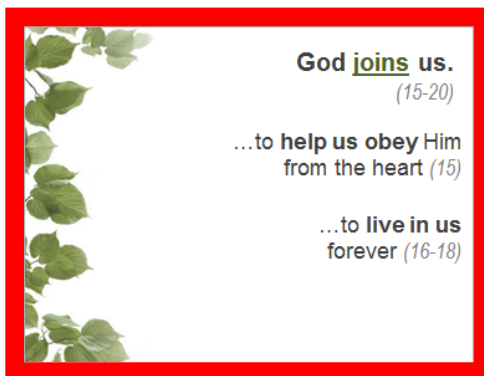
But we all are bent to disobey! So enter the wonder of God's provision to us in His Spirit. Consider **Ezekiel 36**, verse **27**:



*27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

In the Holy Spirit, God has joined us. Not like a piece of snorkel equipment. No...He actually comes and lives within us to help us obey Him from the heart! Let not your heart be troubled!

Further, in the Holy Spirit God joins us...



To live in us forever (16-18)

Look at verses 16-18...there is so much in these verses.

Here God the Son is asking God the Father to send God the Spirit to dwell forever with those who believe on Him.

And notice that he didn't ask the Father to send help... but a Helper. Some translations use the word "Comforter," or "Advocate." The word means "One called alongside to help." And underline that little word "another" ... for in the original language this specifically means "another of the same kind."

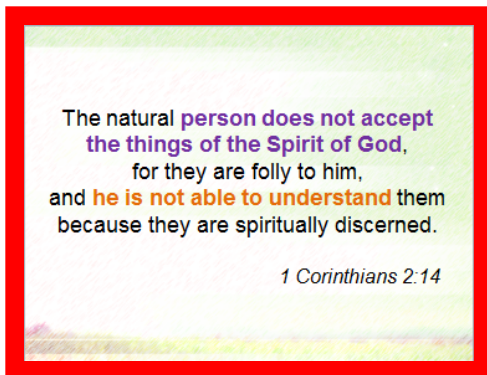
The Holy Spirit is not essentially different from Jesus. No, He is another Helper of the same kind. He too is Emmanuel – God with us!

The disciples were asking, how can we go on if you aren't going to be here with us?

But in the Holy Spirit, God joins us in an even better way – for He isn't just alongside us, but now God is *in* us. If we were talking snorkel gear, it would be like internally being given fish eyes. Look at the end of verse 17. Living *in us* forever!

Precious believer ... The Holy Spirit is with you at all times – Marvel at the wonder of this truth!

But notice carefully verse 17 again... the Holy Spirit cannot be received by the world. **1 Cor. 2:14** says,



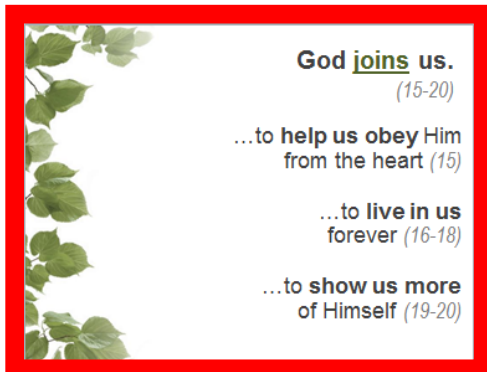
*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, ...*

It's like unbelievers don't have a radio, so they aren't even aware of the radio waves all around them, and can't discern them.

The Spirit of Truth is only for those who believe in Jesus Christ. To receive Him means to submit to Him.

So has God's Spirit united your heart to Christ?

If so, then in the Holy Spirit God joins with us...



*...to show us more of Himself (19-20)*

In verses 19-20 Jesus tells the disciples that He will continue to live even while He goes away. The Holy Spirit will continue to show Christ to them. Our spiritual life both today and forever is secured in the fact that Jesus lives!

You are not alone dear believer. *Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!* You now have the power to obey His commands from your heart, as He lives in you forever, and continues to show you more and more of Himself through His Word.

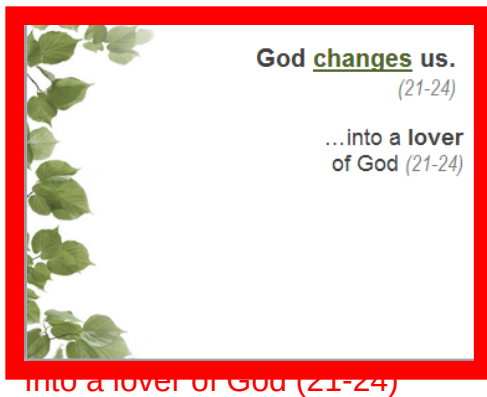
Without a doubt, your anxious heart can find peace in the wonder of God's living Spirit! But notice also that according to verses 21-24, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit...



*God changes us (21-24)*

This is good news! First, God's Spirit changes us...





into a lover of God (21-24)

In verses **21-24**, Jesus again emphasizes the truth of verse **15**. Spiritual love for God produces an obedience of faith. In other words, obedience is the true test of a disciple's love. Love is the root, obedience is the fruit.

**Have you experienced this kind of change?** Is your love for God growing and giving proof of God's Spirit in you?

Now in verse 22, Judas son of James (also known as Thaddaeus in **Matthew 10:3** and **Mark 3:18**) interrupts Jesus' teaching, because even after all Jesus' teaching, the disciples still expected the Messiah to reveal His identity to the world.

But Jesus shows that God's Spirit was making another change. In the Holy Spirit, God changes us ...



into a witness for God (22)

The next time Jesus reveals Himself to the world it will be in judgment at His second coming. But in the meantime, the Holy Spirit – God with us – dwells within Christ's followers so that we bear witness of Him to the world.

Sometimes when we think of witnessing to our unbelieving family and friends, we think we need to know answers to all their hard questions, or know exactly which verses to use, etc. And that can be helpful some times. But the witness of Christ that is empowered by God's Spirit is simply a contagious love for Christ that takes God at His Word, and believes Him enough to obey His commands.

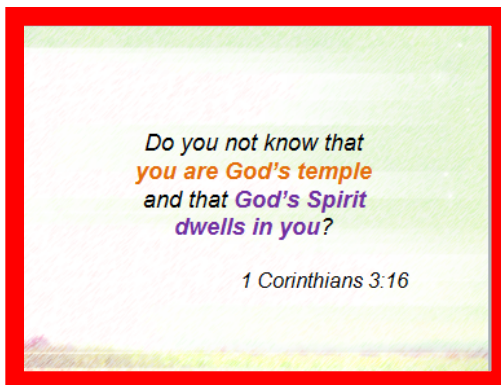
This kind of a witness is possible as the Holy Spirit makes us together...



Note the plural used at the end of verse 23. The triune God – Father, Son, and Spirit – come and make their home in the hearts of those who abide in their love. Any homemakers here?

This is such an amazing change for us! What once was empty and full of dead man's bones is now made into a spiritual tabernacle for God Himself!

Paul glories in this same truth in **1 Corinthians 3:16**,



*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

This morning do you think yourself poor, lonely, and aloof?

If you believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, then you are in the best of company. You are never alone, and are never poor.

Let not your heart be troubled with any fear of abandonment that you may be facing today. In the Holy Spirit, you can find peace!

So this makes me ask, "What does it mean to experience God personally?" "What does it mean to intimately know God as He tabernacles within us?"

**How do we personally experience the Spirit's presence today?**



First, God's Spirit reveals God's love to us in the Gospel (**Rom 8:15**) The Spirit opens our eyes to understand



God's love, so that I listen humbly when God's Spirit teaches us & brings His Word to our mind (**Jn 14:26**). After teaching me from God's Word, God's Spirit empowers my response of obedience & faith (**Jn 14:23**). As I then grow in keeping His Word, God's Spirit assures me that I do know God (**Rom 8:16**). Step by step our joyful communion with God ever-deepens until we find ourselves as His eternal bride on that last day in His eternal presence **Rev 21:2-4**.

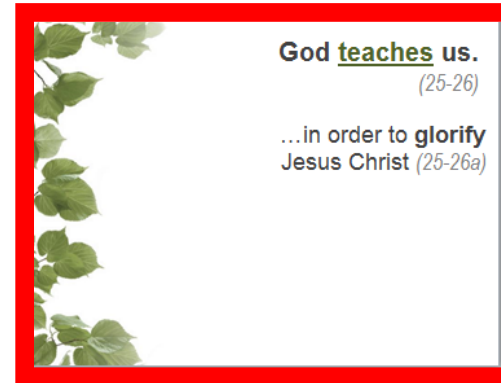
This is what it means to daily experience God's Spirit. So I pray that God's relationship with you through His Spirit has been de-mystified a bit. The relationship of God's Spirit to you is not inherently freaky. But He is transforming. He is holy. And He is supernaturally powerful in His love, His witness, and His dwelling in us.

So in the Holy Spirit, God joins us, changes us, and also



God teaches us (25-26)

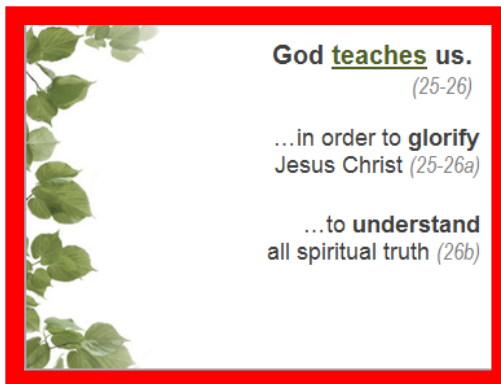
Consider the encouragement of verses **25-26**... the Father will send a Helper in Jesus' very name. In other words, God teaches us through His Spirit,



In order to glorify Jesus Christ (25-26a)

The Spirit is always Christ-centered. Here again in verse 26 – all three persons of the Trinity are named, cooperating without contradiction, intimately united in their divine mission. To be sent in Jesus' name helps us to understand that God's Spirit is *always given and not "gotten."* It can't be bought (e.g. Simon in **Acts 8:19**), or achieved by any religious activity. It is a gift to each and every one of Christ's followers, making the recipient a visible agent of Christ Himself upon the earth.

And verse 26 reveals the content of His teaching. In the Holy Spirit, God teaches us,



To understand all spiritual truth (26b)

When verse 26 says *He will teach you all things...* all things in the context here doesn't speak of mathematics or geography...but all spiritual truth ... the full revelation of the God's Gospel and His Scriptures.

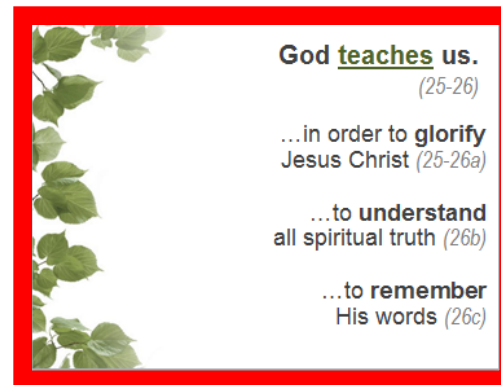
We must always remember that New Castle Bible Church only has one teacher at the end of the day. His Name is Holy Spirit. If He doesn't teach, there is no spiritual teaching. But when the Helper teaches, the eyes of human hearts are supernaturally opened and faith is born, repentance is granted, obedience is practiced, love is shared, and hope is secured.

So would you like to understand the Bible? Learn from the Holy Spirit. Humbly listen to God's Spirit and seek to obey God's Word as He reveals it to you. You will understand God's words. The Spirit of Truth teaches you! The Bible is the only book that you can read that every time you read it, the Author is sitting with you, to help you understand what you are reading!

But you say, it's so hard for me since I can't see the Holy Spirit. He is Spirit after all...and that means He is invisible.

Well just like my parents standing in the ocean poking their fingers through the hole where the lens was supposed to be ...Even though a clean lens is invisible to the sight, it makes all the difference for what a person sees in the water. Without the presence of that lens, the beauty of God's creation is hidden from the understanding of the swimmer. But when sight is illuminated by the power of the lens, a whole new understanding comes to the viewer. And so it is with God's Spirit. He illuminates our understanding. His presence – though unseen to us – makes all the spiritual difference in the world.

So notice at the end of verse 26 that God's Spirit also teaches us,



To remember His words (26c)

Here Jesus is assuring His disciples that after Pentecost they will be given the ability from the Holy Spirit to

accurately recall all the words and works of Jesus and write them down as Scripture.

For us today, God's Spirit helps bring to mind the life-changing truths of God's word to teach us and make us more like Christ.

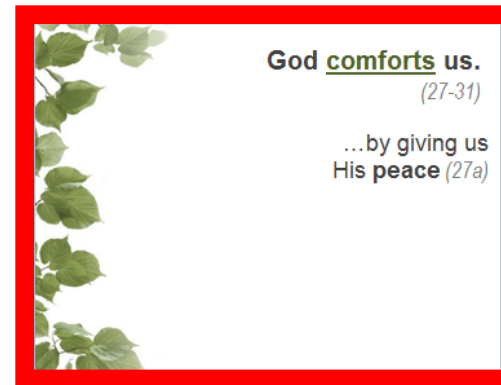
Certainly God's Spirit offers peace to anxious hearts! For He has joined with us, He changes us, He teaches, and finally, in His Spirit,



God comforts us (27-31)

Jesus now speaks a farewell blessing in verse 27 which should ring in your ears this morning: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

God comforts us,



By giving us His peace (27a)

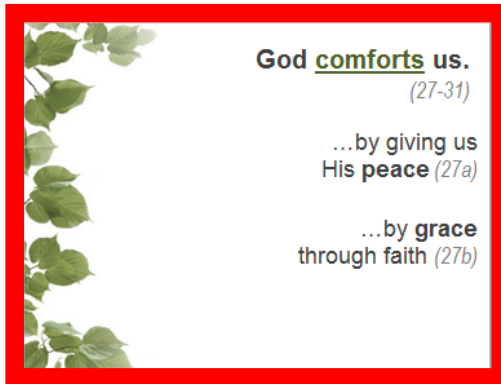
Wholeness. Contentment. Security. Peace. Dear follower of Jesus, you don't have to be anxious anymore. With all that you see falling apart around you... God's Spirit is here. He is with you. He is for you. And He has given you Christ's peace.

Now if you don't have peace in your soul today, then listen carefully to this wonderful invitation for you. Please know that by placing your trust *in Jesus you can be brought near to the saving heart of God by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace...reconciling us to God through the cross (Eph 2:13-16).* **Romans 5:1** says that *since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Someone died so that you could truly have peace today! Do you believe that God sent His only Son as the God-man into this sinful world, to be born of a virgin, to live a sinless life, so that He could take the death penalty for every sinner who would believe in Him? Jesus died on

that cross as your substitute. Your sins deserve death... but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. He died in your place. When you believe that Jesus died for your sins, and rose on the third day as conqueror of sin and death, then God's peace is given to you! And there is no greater peace that you could ever know than a permanent, right relationship with God Himself!

Such peace is never earned, but given to you:



By grace through faith (27b)

As our text says, the peace of God is granted differently than how the world attempts to promise peace.

Peace for Anxious Hearts	
The World's "Peace"	God's Peace
Based on <b>resources</b>	Based on <b>relationships</b>
Depends on <b>personal ability</b>	Depends on <b>Christ's ability</b>
Hoped for, Worked for	Gift received by faith
Temporary	Eternal
Enjoyed in <b>absence</b> of trouble	Enjoyed in <b>spite</b> of trouble
Focused on <b>externals</b> (by sight)	Focused on <b>eternals</b> (by faith)

The world only offers peace to those who earn it. But God's peace is all of grace. It is only granted to those who submit their life to the loving Lordship of Christ, repenting of their sins, and believing in Him.

Jesus' commands at the end of vs 27 repeat the command of verse 1 – *Let not your hearts be troubled, and neither let them be afraid.* The words are clear – stop an action already in process. Don't let your hearts continue on in a troubled state. Don't let your hearts continue on in fear. Even though you do not understand everything in its fullness yet...Jesus has sent another Helper in His name – the Holy Spirit. And He comforts us,



By assuring us of His victory (28-31)

Jesus closing words in this chapter are clear – Satan isn't going to win. The ruler of this world has no power over Jesus– Jesus is leaving because He's going to the Father – and it's said with the certainty of victory and purpose. Our God is trustworthy and sovereign. Jesus' purposeful obedience to His Father makes our peace secure.

No wonder,



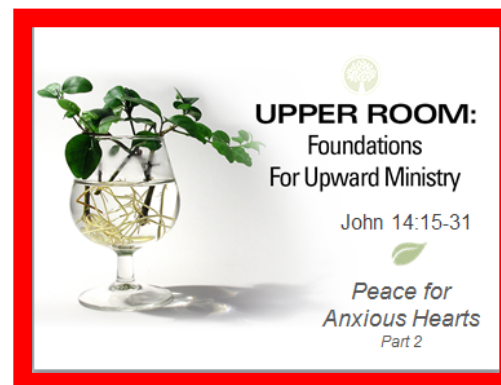
Anxious hearts can now find peace in the wonder of the Holy Spirit.

Trying to live the Christian life apart from God's Spirit? It just doesn't work. It would be like trying to go snorkeling without a set of goggles. So...



Stop worrying. Keep trusting God.

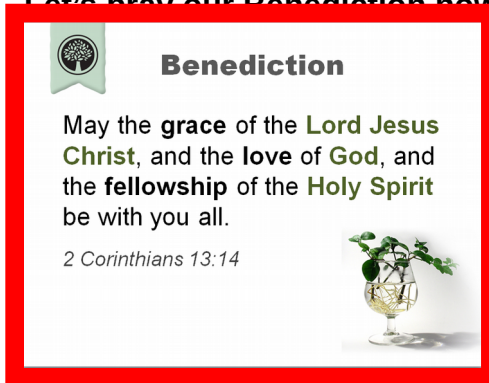
The blessings of God are so rich for those who are in Christ by faith. If you are not yet personally experiencing God's Spirit within you, then today is the day of salvation. Turn from your sins and repent. Believe in Christ, and receive **His Spirit who will join you, change you, teach you, and eternally comfort you.**



Let's pray.

<<Leaning on the Everlasting Arms>>

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



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.**