NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



12.2.2018
Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

Receive the Gift of Peace

Lesson 1

The Gift of Peace, *Who Needs It?*

Are You Experiencing...

- **REJECTION** from the world? *(3:4-10)*
- **RESISTANCE** from those rebelling against God? *(1:7, 13, 27-30)*
- **RECESSION** and financial stress? *(4:10-20; 2Corinthians 8:1-5)*
- **RELATIONAL** conflict and tension? *(2:1-4; 4:1-3)*
- **RESULTS** of idolatry in your heart?

What Is Worry Anyway?

"We worry when we imagine the future in a terrible way." – Tony Merida

"Anxiety seems to be an intense desire for something, accompanied by a fear of the consequences of not receiving it" – John Piper says,

"Anxiety shows that our hearts are so set on something that we are terrified of losing it, desperate to hold onto it for dear life. That 'something' that we cannot bear to lose is our heart's foundation, its 'center of gravity.'" – Dennis Johnson

"Anything that becomes more important and nonnegotiable to us than God becomes an enslaving idol. In this paradigm, we can locate idols by looking at our most unyielding emotions. What makes us uncontrollably angry, anxious, or despondent? ... Idols control us, since we feel we must have them or life is meaningless." – Tim Keller

What Is Robbing You of Peace? What Idols Are You Counting on to Bring Peace to Your Heart?

The Gift of Peace, *What Is It?*

- Living under the **RULE** of God in relationship with King Jesus! *(Matthew 6:33-34)*

Peace is experiencing...
- God's ***presence*** with us...
- God's ***provision*** for us...
- God's ***protection*** of us...
- God's ***power*** through us...
- God's ***priorities*** lived out by us...

} *in the Lord!*

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:33-34

How to Receive the Gift God Loves to Give

Philippians 4:4-7

1. REJOICE in the Lord Always No Matter What. *(4)*

- The Stress: *This is a command to obey no matter what* **HAPPENS**! *1:18; 2:17-18; 3:1*

➤ The Season: *This is a command to obey at* **ALL TIMES***!*

➤ The Source: *This is a command* **ONLY** *believers can obey and enjoy in the Lord!*

What Does "Rejoice in the Lord" Mean?

Yes, but how?
REFOCUS on your relationship with the Lord!

1) **COUNT** your blessings in the Lord. *Psalm 103*

2) **REFLECT** on the greatness and goodness of the Lord. *Psalm 100*

3) **FEED** (memorize and meditate) on the Word from the Lord. *Psalm 119*

2. RELATE to Others with the Gentleness of the Lord. *(5)*

➤ The Meaning: *Relating to others with a gracious restraint and a gentle response, especially when* **WRONGED***!*

➤ The Manifestation: *Let all people* **SEE** *it in you at all times!*

➤ The Motive: *The Lord's return is* **COMING** *with judgment and reward! 2Thessalonians 1:4-8; James 5:7-9*

Yes, but how?
RELEASE your rights to the Lord!
"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29

3. Replace Worrying with Praying to the Lord. *(6)*

➤ Replace with a **WORSHIPPING** heart

➤ Request with a **YIELDED** heart

Praying – Approaching God with a heart of adoration.

Supplicating – Bringing our present needs before God.

Thanksgiving – Praising God by acknowledging His greatness and goodness in all things.

Requesting – Urgently asking for help in times of great need.

➤ Rest with a **PEACEFUL** heart

Yes, but how?
REST in the glorious reign and **RELY** on the gracious resources of the Lord!

The Result: You Will Receive the Gift God Loves to Give – *HIS PEACE!*

"*And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (4:7)*

- ☐ You will receive the peace **ONLY** God can give!
- ☐ You will experience the peace that **SURPASSES** human comprehension and capability!
- ☐ You will be protected from anything and everything that tries to **STEAL** your peace away!