



# The Land Of Life • La Tierra De Vida

WHEN YOU HAVE THE PEACE OF GOD, YOU HAVE IT ALL

# 15103

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* John 16:33. Then the Apostle Paul said: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4: 4-7. We are not here enjoying a vacation. We came to study and learn. In many cases the lessons are presented in the form of adversity. Part of what we are learning is that we need to trust in God and in His protection, to enjoy His peace and learn to turn over our problems to Him and ask Him for His perfect solution. Once we learn this lesson we are approved. When we are reproved is when we choose to feel like victims as we encounter adversity. If we don't have the peace of God, we don't have enjoyment. This is our personal choice.

As part of our education, we learn to know ourselves, and with that knowledge we learn to handle events as they present themselves. We already have the necessary tools to do what we came to do. Our family is part of our learning. They are with us for a reason. There are ties that bind us to them. Everyone has some influence on our learning. Even as children we loved and appreciated some members, while others we wanted to keep at a distance. However, from an early age they made their contribution that we might learn what is love and compassion. We come in groups. We don't each get an island, because it is in the interaction that we learn to know ourselves, not in isolation. The Lord Jesus Christ in His prayer asked the Father: *"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours... I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."* John 17: 9, 15. Perhaps some of us believe that if we become hermits we will grow faster, but it is not so. We need interaction.

We need to quiet our minds in meditation to align our will with God's will, and then rejoin the world again. Face the situations as they arise, without fear, confident that God knows what is going on and will respond to your prayer. Share your life experiences with others. Let them know you. Note how your experiences bring understanding and hope to others that are going through similar situations. *"You will need your learning most in situations that appear to be upsetting, rather than in those that already seem to be calm and quiet. The purpose of your learning is to enable you to bring the quiet with you, and to heal distress and turmoil. This is not done by avoiding them and seeking a haven of isolation for yourself. You will yet learn that peace is part of you, and requires only that you be there to embrace any situation in which you are. And finally you will learn that there is no limit to where you are, so that your peace is everywhere, as you are."* ACIM 1st Review. 4-5.

It is difficult to imagine not having concerns, worries or anxiety of any kind, but being perfectly calm and quiet all the time, and yet that is what we came to learn. When we learn to trust God's love and His protection, we will ask of Him what we need, knowing that we will receive it, and we will assume it was granted. *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds."* That kind of trust in God can only bring perfect peace. Since we can only share what we have, once we enjoy the peace of God, others will sense it as we interact with them. Our mission is to have the peace of God and share it with others, but if we were to isolate ourselves, to whom are we going to extend it?

If you have trouble interacting with people outside your circle, practiced interacting with relatives. Ask them what they like in life, what makes them happy, what they enjoy the most. You will get to know them, and you will be surprised to see that you have a lot in common with them.

*"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

Ruth