

The Holy Spirit and Peace

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

HARK! the Herald Angels sing (First written as, "Hark how all the Welkin rings."
"Glory to the new newborn king; "Welkin" means the celestial abode of God: heaven.)
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled"

(The original hymn was composed as a "Hymn for Christmas-Day" by Charles Wesley.)

The promise of the Holy Spirit included a promise of peace. Right after Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit was being sent to them as a gift of advocacy and comfort, he speaks about peace.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said his peace would be different than the peace the world gives?
- Given what you have already learned about the role of the Holy Spirit, name some ways the Spirit brings peace into our lives?
- Even with all that God has promised us through Christ Jesus, why do you believe it is so easy for Christians to seemingly lose their inner peace?

There are a number of ways to consider the peace that Christ has promised.

Peace with God - Just as the carol proclaims – "God and sinners reconciled."

(Ephesians 2:13-14a) We only have peace with God because of the saving work of Christ Jesus in our lives. ***For he is our peace...*** (Eph. 2:14a)

Peace with Others - Peace with God ought to then naturally flow into our relationships with others. Paul wrote, ***...agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.*** (2 Cor. 13:11b)

Peace of God - When we have peace with God which then flows into our peace with others, we have the peace OF God. (Philippians 4:4-7)

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