

# SonLight and Laughter Dec. 04

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**Alexandria & Friends**



## A Testimony

"Keeping My Peace"

By Shirley Andrews

In John 14:27 Jesus said, "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."

So what does that mean to me? It means the Peace is here. He left it. He did not promise it in the future. "I leave" means he did it before he left. OK, so in my mind, I know this. How does it work out in my everyday life? Jesus left His Peace for me. He completed everything he came to do. It's called the completed work of the cross. When we have a problem, like frustration, we put that into the completed work of the cross and we receive peace in its place. A recent experience might help make the point.

My husband had asked me to copy a lab report into the computer. Several columns of numbers. Having never had a good Computer 101(my husband would set up projects for me and say "A monkey could do this") so only knowing what a monkey knows, I sat about typing the report. The tab sets and releases are more complicated on the computer than my typing 101 training had prepared me for. After some intervention from a friend and many hours of tab, tab tab, tab, I had almost finished. Upon proof reading, I realized that I had forgotten to star certain numbers, I went back to merely type it in. Suddenly the whole line moves, the space bar instead of making a space begins to eat up the line like Pac Man. No, no, noGobacksetitupagain.overandover, I am becoming more and more frustrated. An afternoon and morning. Just so you know, I did go to helps, I followed their instruction. Still couldn't get it to simply add the stars.

Now I am driving to town with gritted teeth and I ask myself, "Where's the Peace?" If Jesus left it, where is it. My mind goes back to my grandson who I kept on a regular basis while my daughter was working. He would be very upset when she would leave and I would hold him close and sing to him "Jesus, Jesus Jesus, there's just something about that name." OK, try that.

I began to sing to myself. Incredibly, by the time I got to my destination, I had the Peace back. I don't know why I didn't pray in the middle of the project. Most times I do ask for help in difficult situations. I just let the frustration of this new situation get the best (or worst) of me. What I do know is that it was my responsibility to get the Peace back. Jesus had done his part. He left it for me. When he said my yoke is easy and my burden is light, I think that this is because Jesus has done the work. Therefore the cross we take up is the "completed work" cross, one which we can carry because he already did.



Merry Christmas to you!

Remember to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

I wrote you about giving Jesus a Birthday gift for His Birthday. As Shirley said in the above letter, you give Jesus your frustration, striving and strife, and put it by prayer into Him and The Completed Work of His Cross and He Releases or restores, His Peace that passes your understanding in their place.( kind of like the mail boxes above if there were seven boxes for the seven works of the cross) Your gift to Him is to receive what He already did for you 2000 years ago. And to live retaining it.

Jesus always gives me a gift that I know came from Him for Christmas. He will do that for you too if you are humbly watching and receptive. Not the 'gimme a red bike Jesus' expectation, but let Him pick out what He knows is one of your heart's desires and be pleasantly surprised and thankful.

Like a restored or redeemed relationship, a day of particular strength, health and cognizance, a new abiding Joy or humor in an unexpected place, a call from an old friend to say they love you, hearing the music of a sweet tiny voice cry of a new long awaited grandchild, an answer to prayer only God has heard, your spouse making morning coffee, a grown child telling you that he sees finally that Love from God is the strength of the family-not money or position or authority, thanksgiving and respect in someone close to you, or better yet, in yourself...

God looks on your heart and finds His gift exchange there. Exchanging your frustrations, striving, strife, every natural or carnal thought, word, action, deed, intent and purpose that exalts themselves against the Mind of Christ, the Will and Purpose of God,... for His True Peace, for one. Isa. 53, "the chastisement for our Peace was upon Him.." He was already chastised for your frustrations, etc., 2000 years ago, that you may have His True Peace today and everyday. It is **His Peace** in us. Go ahead, delight yourself in the Lord - make His day – and give Him all your frustrations for His Birthday, and He will give you the desire of your heart. His True Peace.

Not because you earned it or deserved it, but because Jesus did and by His Grace, He wants to share His Blessings with you. What a Savior! What a Lord! Thank you for coming to earth, Jesus.

May the Fullness of His True Peace be with you and in you always,



and His GoodWill and generosity towards all,

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