

Keeping my Peace - 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.