

## WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR? - PEACE! (WEEK 4)

Scripture used: [John 16:31-33 \(NIV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Hurmon preached to us about peace. This is something we all desperately want. We want to stop worrying, reduce anxiety, and overcome fear. 2020 has been hugely challenging, and yet the future is not necessarily going to be better. We are not guaranteed anything but a relationship with God. Fortunately that is enough! Many of us know the hymn [It Is Well With My Soul](#), but not the story behind it. The composer, [Horatio Spafford](#), wrote it in 1873. He had lost a son, then his business, and finally all four daughters during a voyage across the Atlantic. He wrote the hymn while on another ship sailing past the place where his daughters died. Horatio knew both peace and sorrows in his life. He knew they coexisted as a part of a broken world. At the same time, he also knew how amazing it felt to have every single one of his sins “nailed to the cross” so he didn’t have to carry them. Few of us have suffered like he did, but we can identify with the brokenness of the world. 2020 forced us to consider those things where we put our trust. Were they worthy of that trust or did they fall short? For most of us, the wake up call was clear: only God is worthy. Now is the chance for us to put our trust in Him, and to claim the blessings and peace that come with that trust, no matter what.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **The peace of Jesus is an active awareness of God’s presence.** When Jesus spoke to His disciples in this week’s scriptures, He was close to His death. He knew what was about to happen, both His crucifixion and the disciples abandoning Him. But He didn’t despair. He knew He wasn’t alone; God the Father was with Him. Jesus wanted us to have the same peace He had, which is based entirely on a sense of God being right here with us, every moment of every day.
- 2) **We have to struggle through obstacles to find the peace of Jesus.** It’s not enough to want to find peace. We must actively cultivate an awareness of God in our daily lives. This means connecting our faith to our struggles. There are health problems, relationship problems, financial problems, and so many others. It’s hard to take all these things and trust them completely to Jesus. But remember that God is our God, as it says in [Isaiah 41:10 \(NLT\)](#). He will strengthen us, and make us victorious. This is especially important when we’re faced with things beyond our control. Jesus told His disciples “a time is coming and in fact has come” when they would be tested. There was nothing they could do to escape this pain, just like there was nothing Jesus could do to escape the crucifixion. These moments can feel completely overwhelming but that is exactly when Jesus said we would be able to find peace in Him.
- 3) **We can follow a pathway to the peace of Jesus, and we will be okay no matter what happens.** This year was full of unexpected suffering. Many of us are looking to 2021 in the hope of everything getting better, from the pandemic to the economy, from politics to systemic racism. But that is not what God promises us. In [John 16:33 \(NIV\)](#) Jesus tells His disciples to take heart because He has overcome the world. He knew they would face many challenges, including the temptation to despair. Many of us are in a similar place. Now we must face the fact that 2021 may not work out the way we want. And that is okay. We cannot place our trust in this broken world. Ultimately, the only thing worthy of our trust is God. If we give Him our trust, He will give us His peace!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Christmas is a chance to celebrate the birth of our savior. Emmanuel means “God with us.” No matter what happens, Jesus promises us that He has the last word. We can always place our faith in Him. Everything can be placed in His hands. What parts of your life are you most readily able to trust God? What parts are most difficult? Why?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - [Consider Luke 22:39-44 \(NIV\)](#). It wasn’t easy for Jesus to trust God with His life, when He was facing death and the cross. And yet he was able to, and God was with Him through the crucifixion and the resurrection. What does Jesus show us about the relationship between trust and peace? What is one area of my life where I can begin to trust God through acceptance and surrender?
- 3) **DO** - It is almost Christmas! Pastor Hurmon and the whole NBCC family have put together an amazing [NBCC Christmas Eve celebration](#). Think of at least 5 people you can invite, and share the link with them. See you on Christmas Eve!