(08/11/08)

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

Peace Be Still

A couple of weekends ago, I was blessed to have Saturday off from work. I decided that early Saturday morning, I would spend the day on the beach waters and simply relax. When I arrived to my destination, I carried my gear from the car to the beach. I erected the umbrella and placed my lawn chair up under it. I placed my cooler full of fruit and water, beside me. I sat down and relaxed. As I looked along the beach, I watched the people enjoying their afternoon just as I was. As I begin to lean back in my chair, I closed my eyes. It was such a peaceful atmosphere. I could hear the ocean roaring to the shore and waves crashing on the beach. I could hear the sea gulls flying around the beach. I could hear the children playing in the water but for the most part it was so peaceful. I started dozing off to sleep and I remember thinking about the disciples on the ship and Jesus in the back of it sleeping peacefully. A storm started raging and the disciples went into a panic stage! Jesus told the water and the wind to be quiet and be still. At once everything was calm again. Jesus told the water and the wind to be quiet and they both obeyed. Imagine being deaf, but at the same time you can actually hear. I immediately opened my eyes and thought to myself that there will be a time when I will experience a deeper peace than what I was experiencing at that time! There are so many who are not experiencing the peace I was experiencing at that moment on the beach. My brothers and sisters, are the storms of life raging in your mind? Are you content on this earth with the peace you have knowing it could be better? I pray now that Jesus will whisper these very words into your life "Peace Be Still". My brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit has instructed me to tell you not to be ashamed or afraid. You need God's peace of mind and I will tell you how to achieve it, who it comes from and how to maintain it. Just read the next eight bullets carefully.

How can I find peace? Job 22:21, TLB. "Quit quarreling with God. Agree with Him and you will have peace at last. His favor will surround you if you will only admit that you were wrong."

<u>Peace is making things right with God.</u> Romans 5:1, TLB. "So now, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith in His promises, we can have real peace with Him because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." <u>Peace is a gift from God</u>. John 14:27, TLB. "I am leaving you with a gift-peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

<u>Peace results from obeying God's law.</u> Psalm 119:165, NIV. "Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble."

<u>Peace is a worthwhile objective.</u> Romans 14:19, NIV. "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

<u>Peace is security.</u> Psalm 122:6-7, NIV. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

Once I find peace, how do I keep it? Isaiah 26:3-4, TLB. "He will keep you in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord! Trust in the Lord God always, for in the Lord Jehovah is your everlasting strength."

Happiness comes from working for peaceful relationships. Matthew 5:9, TLB. "Happy are those who strive for peacethey shall be called sons of God."

This peace that only God has to offer is <u>unknown to the unsaved</u>. To the children of God it secures composure in difficult trouble. It dissolves fear and rules in the hearts of God's people to maintain harmony. The greatest reality of this peace will be in the messianic kingdom. Read about this peace that Christ is talking about in John 14:27-31.

I pray now that Jesus will whisper these very words into your life "Peace Be Still".

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 2:14-26

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If there be not a close communion between God and us, it is our fault, and not His.