

CHRIST'S PEACE

My own peace I give you

Those who are at peace are not necessarily the one's who are always quiet. They are not always the ones who do not get excited, or who let life pass them by in a cloud of mystic detachment.

Those who are at peace ironically may well be the ones to get things done.

The peace of Christ being active and not passive.

There was once a student who was drawing close to the period of examinations. With a number of months to go before the big events there always seemed to be time for sleeping in, or parties, or going out, or events. Indeed, there seemed to be time for anything that gave the excuse to avoid work. Not because this chap was in anyway lazy. But because he was afraid. Afraid of failure. Afraid of not living up to other people's expectations. Afraid of facing the books which were the clearest symbol of the challenge of the life that he lived at that time.

The peace of Christ is not liberation from the challenge
but from the fear.

Failure is a badge of pride for those with the faith to have a go.

The expectation of faith is one of acceptance.

Those who have the calm spirit of peace are the ones who can attempt any challenge knowing that the joy is in the attempt.

Those who are at peace ironically may be the ones to get things done.

There was once a wife who was told that her husband of 35 years was going to die quite soon.

A rush of mixed emotions hit her like an express train. She wanted to wrap him up in cotton wool. She wanted to scream at the doctor for saying such a thing. To cry, and to cry, and to cry. Then to pretend that actually nothing was wrong, nothing had changed.

The peace of Christ is not an escape from the pain but the means of bearing it.

That rush of emotions with faith is accepted.

The dignity of her husband is not obscured by pity.

The anger is admitted, and the tears flow with the compassion of real love.

Within the peace of Christ there is no need for pretence, and she has the power to share her husband's death with the same simple dedication with which she shared his life.

Those who are at peace ironically may be the ones to get things done.

There was once a roman catholic priest who was everyone's friend. Who made promises to each person that he met. Who was always so busy that he never had time to do anything properly. Who in attempting to proclaim the faith forgot who he was and became an amateur social worker. Then wrapped himself in a cloak of self pity

The peace of Christ is not the absence of imperfection but the acceptance of it.

Therefore, with that peace of heart the priest acted independently of any need of popularity.

He said honestly that he was incapable of doing all things and thus did a great many things well. Who with that peace did not lose sight of the Christ in all that he was.

Who cared for his imperfect self and so found time to rest.

The peace that Christ gives us; enables us to function in the world, not hide from it.

The peace of Christ is the power of life not the denial of it.

May that peace
which the world can not give you
be with you
and be in your homes.