

The Basis of Firm Peace of Heart and True Progress

by Thomas a Kempis

True peace comes from humility, meekness of heart, and a willingness to suffer for God, and is characterized by equanimity, giving thanks, and seeing all things in their proper light.

Scripture: Psalm 34:14, Proverbs 16:7, Isaiah 26:3, Matthew 5:9, John 14:27, Romans 12:18, Philippians 4:7, Colossians 3:15, James 3:17, 1 Peter 5:7

Topics: "Inner Peace", "Spiritual Humility"

Description

Thomas a Kempis preaches about finding true peace through humility, patience, and surrendering to the divine will. He emphasizes the importance of not seeking personal desires but focusing on pleasing God alone, avoiding rash judgments, and not getting entangled in unnecessary affairs. True peace is not the absence of disturbances or opposition but comes from offering oneself wholeheartedly to God's will, maintaining equanimity in all circumstances, and being willing to endure suffering with hope and gratitude.

Transcript

THE VOICE OF CHRIST

MY CHILD, I have said: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, do I give unto you."[34]

All men desire peace but all do not care for the things that go to make true peace. My peace is with the humble and meek of heart: your peace will be in much patience. If you hear Me and follow My voice, you will be able to enjoy much peace.

THE DISCIPLE

What, then, shall I do, Lord?

THE VOICE OF CHRIST

Watch yourself in all things, in what you do and what you say. Direct your every intention toward pleasing Me alone, and desire nothing outside of Me. Do not be rash in judging the deeds and words of others, and do not entangle yourself in affairs that are not your own. Thus, it will come about that you will be disturbed

little and seldom.

Yet, never to experience any disturbance or to suffer any hurt in heart or body does not belong to this present life, but rather to the state of eternal rest. Do not think, therefore, that you have found true peace if you feel no depression, or that all is well because you suffer no opposition. Do not think that all is perfect if everything happens just as you wish. And do not imagine yourself great or consider yourself especially beloved if you are filled with great devotion and sweetness. For the true lover of virtue is not known by these things, nor do the progress and perfection of a man consist in them.

THE DISCIPLE

In what do they consist, Lord?

THE VOICE OF CHRIST

They consist in offering yourself with all your heart to the divine will, not seeking what is yours either in small matters or great ones, either in temporal or eternal things, so that you will preserve equanimity and give thanks in both prosperity and adversity, seeing all things in their proper light.

If you become so brave and long-suffering in hope that you can prepare your heart to suffer still more even when all inward consolation is withdrawn, and if you do not justify yourself as though you ought not be made to suffer such great things, but acknowledge Me to be just in all My works and praise My holy name -- then you will walk in the true and right path of peace, then you may have sure hope of seeing My face again in joy. If you attain to complete contempt of self, then know that you will enjoy an abundance of peace, as much as is possible in this earthly life.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-a-kempis/the-basis-of-firm-peace-of-heart-and-true-progress/>

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