

The Abiding Principles

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 16:16-33.

B. Jesus promised that He would not only be with the disciples but within them.

C. This secret makes it possible for a Christian to live as Christ lived through dependence and trust upon God through the Spirit.

II. Jesus comforts the disciples after He tells them of His departure.

A. The disciples are concerned about why and how long Jesus will be gone.

B. Jesus ignores the whole matter of time; instead, He is concerned with the how and the what.

1. There is a time of sorrow from which He cannot spare them.

2. However, the inevitable end will be joy.

3. The timing is not significant.

4. Jesus is concerned with the increase of joy that will arise from the presence of the Holy Spirit from within.

III. Jesus reaffirms the assurance of answered prayer.

A. The condition is “in Jesus name.”

B. This means asking according to Jesus’ desires—prayer is not a means to give us what we want but a means by which we accomplish God’s desires.

C. We must ask, but we must ask for God’s objectives (James 1)

D. “In Jesus name” is also an acceptance by which God works—through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

E. “In Jesus name” means dependence upon Jesus’ activity.

IV. Jesus establishes the relationship that the disciples have with the Father because of belief.

A. This is not because of works.

B. God’s love comes from belief—His love is manifest as a father’s love directly to us because of Christ.

V. Jesus teaches the disciples that true peace is based upon trust and not circumstances.

- A. He tells them that they will falter.
- B. However, He has conquered the world.
- C. We have Jesus' love, joy and peace.
- D. His peace that He gives us comes from dependence upon the Father.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that God will give one whatever he wants as long as he asks in faith?

2. Does God promise that we will not face any suffering as long as we are a Christian? Explain.

3. What areas of your life could you use Jesus' peace? Share your struggle with a fellow believer and spend some time in prayer together.
