

## “Make the Effort to Stay in Peace”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Many people today are on a quest for peace. People go away on retreats, they go fishing, they build elaborate backyard oases, anything they can find to do to give them a sense of serenity or peace. People spend much time, energy, and money to get peace, doing a lot of work to obtain this peace, but unfortunately they are going about it in a manner and direction that will not take them to true peace.

You see, peace is not bought or worked for. True peace is freely given to us by Jesus. <sup>25</sup>“All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:25-27 (NIV)

You see, peace is freely given to us by Jesus. we do, though, have to make a conscious effort to KEEP our peace. “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (vs. 27b)

Notes:

[a]

We all could come up with examples of discontent, distress, fear, terror, and many other “unpeaceful” things that bombard people everyday. We as believers must consciously put on our spiritual armor <sup>(Ephesians 6)</sup> and through prayer, daily study and meditation on the Bible, and confession of God’s word, keep our peace.

Peace means “nothing missing, nothing broken”. This is what we as Believers in Jesus the Christ have. So when circumstances say we have things missing, we must make the effort to walk in the truth of Bible and believe with every fiber of our beings that we are whole—despite what the world says.

Make the effort, perfect peace is worth it.

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “You Will Have Increase”

(Teaching Sketch)

Proverbs 22:1-9



The one thing which seems to always come up in people’s conversations is the desire to increase the good in their lives. This desire is often manifested in the form of complaining about the bad in the speaker’s lives. There are certainly many circumstances about which people find a need to complain. Family, health, weather, jobs, money, sense of fulfillment, all these can motivate a feeling of discord in a person’s life. If you said, “That’s for sure,” then, you are probably someone who sees or creates a problem in much of your life. “Now, just wait a minute,” you say, “not me, it’s just the way life is!” Oh, really, is that right?

Perhaps the expectation is the problem. When the expectation is for problems and decrease that tends to be what comes. Then when the problem is voiced as fact we have given the problem permission to occur, not to mention ownership of the problem is then claimed. Being made in the image of God<sup>[a]</sup> gives us the ability to call things into existence! Therefore we need to create peace<sup>[b]</sup>



Notes:

[a]  
Gen.  
1:26

[b]  
Nothing missing nothing broken

[c]  
Rom.  
4:17

[d]  
Phil.  
3:14

[e]  
Nehemiah  
8:10

[f]  
Matt.  
6:26

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with our words. It is easy to understand why people expect to have difficulty and problems, even Believers in everyday life tend to forget that the evil that is, needs not to be voiced. But things that are not (that which we desire) are to be spoken<sup>[c]</sup> and in the speaking it will be brought into existence with the problem being vanquished by the power of Jesus the Christ!

**Going For The Gold**  
Going for the blessing in life seems to be a mystery to many, mostly because they see themselves as victims of nearly every circumstance. We are told in scripture to press in to God.<sup>[d]</sup> When we press into him on a regular basis we will not become weary and faint. We will have the joy of the Lord which brings us strength<sup>[e]</sup> to endure and prevail.

**What Brings Increase**  
Our scripture in Proverbs 22:4 gives us more than a clue, it lays it out for us.

<sup>4</sup> Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

Humility is often a very misunderstood matter. The first component in spiritual humility is to

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## Scripture:

**Proverbs 22:1-9** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup> Rich and poor have this in common:

The LORD is the Maker of them all.

<sup>3</sup> A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

<sup>4</sup> Humility and the fear of the LORD

bring wealth and honor and life.

<sup>5</sup> In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his soul stays far from them.

<sup>6</sup> Train<sup>[a]</sup> a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

<sup>7</sup> The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to

Notes:

[a]

Or *Start*

the lender.

<sup>8</sup> He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.

<sup>9</sup> A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.



Continued from page one.

realize we are not our own god. You may think this is so obvious that you discount this idea entirely out of hand. Well, let's look at this for a moment.

When is God thought of or consulted in the matters of life? By many, it is only when a problem is so big they do not feel it can be handled without Divine in-

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# “You Will Have Increase” (Teaching Sketch)

Proverbs 22:1-9

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tervention. That is the mistake! The urgent usually only becomes urgent after important things have been ignored or put off in our lives. May I suggest regular fellowship with God, his word, and seasoned mentoring Believers is very important as it demonstrates humility by allowing guidance in the important things before negative things become urgent.

## You Will Have Increase

Our scripture shows us there is both blessing and cursing which results from our behaviors. Each of us will have increase and the harvest of our increase. The seeds we have planted will bring either good or evil into our lives. Our scripture tells we would reap what we sow.<sup>[v. 8]</sup> We choose our increase by our words and behaviors for good or ill.

## Assurance Of Increase

A generous man will be blessed, we are told in our scripture. Jesus told us we were better than the birds of the field and our Heavenly Father meets their needs.<sup>[1]</sup> Believers live in The Kingdom of The Blessing. Blessing means empowered to prosper. Take God at his word, humble yourself to his care, and be empowered to prosper!

## Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal fellowship & sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise, Worship, & Offerings:** (*Offerings to be placed in basket during Praise & Worship*)  
Words of Prophecy or Knowledge if they have been given during “Praise & Worship.” (other times as the Spirit moves)
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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