



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – January, 2018

“PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.”

John 14:27

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 14:27 NIV

Looking back at the early church, the impact and accomplishments of the early believers was strong despite lack of adequate resources. They were very ordinary men and women for the most part, trying to make a difference, through fierce opposition. Despite severe persecution, they emerged victorious.

Today, in our setting, we have every resource imaginable to assist with our Christian walk, but there is still so many forces at war within us. Only through the peace of God can we overcome these hostile forces to bring comfort in place of conflict. Jesus says He will give us that peace if we are willing to accept it from Him.

The end result of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a deep and lasting peace. As we begin a New Year, most yearn for this peace through every circumstance, in our daily lives. True peace is not found in positive thinking, in absence of conflict, or in good feelings. It comes from knowing that God is in control and allowing Him to guard our hearts against anything that robs us of His everlasting peace.

So what was the secret of the early church? There was no secret. Their faith was a very simple one of God's people proclaiming the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit...and confirming it with holy lives.

Are we missing the power and work of the Holy Spirit to unleash God's power to see transformed lives?

PREPAREDNESS + TRAINING = PEACE

Complacency is perhaps one of the biggest challenges we face in our emergency action plans. Immediately following a disaster, we are eager to improve in our emergency preparedness but it doesn't take long before we forget the experiences and planning efforts.

When it comes to personal safety, complacency can be a literal “killer” for each one of us. There is much danger in going into “autopilot” not worrying what tomorrow might bring. We only have to spend a little time looking back over the past ten years to see the trend that has emerged for disasters all over the world. This trend is the new norm so it is dangerous to put our preparedness planning on the back shelf in hopes that it is never needed.

Solution

One technique found to be effective in battling complacency is to investigate what the professionals say regarding personal and community preparedness. Before Christmas, Bridges of Love received a letter from the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety Canada expressing affirmation for CERT training.

“First allow me to congratulate you on the progress that you have made in developing a successful community training program and hosting nine CERT Summits over the past two years. Initiatives to strengthen emergency preparedness and response at the local level are critical for building resilient communities. As I mentioned in my statement on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, every one of us has a role to play in building a safer and more resilient society. I sincerely commend your contribution to this collective responsibility.”

WHAT IS IN YOUR CUP?

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you making you spill your coffee everywhere.



Why did you spill the coffee?

“Well, because someone bumped into me, of course!”

Wrong answer...

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled the tea.

What occupies the space in the cup is what will spill out...

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes us, whatever is inside will come out. It's easy to hold on, until we get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves...

What's in my cup when life gets tough? What spills out?

Is it joy, gratefulness, peace, & humility or is it anger, bitterness, with harsh and negative words?

We choose the reaction!

When life overwhelms, let our cup be over-flowing with the fruits of the spirit & God's peace.