



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Pursue Peace	SPEAKER	Gary Koh
THEME	What to Pursue in Life?	DATE	14 & 15 August 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Apart from pursuing love and righteousness, the scriptural texts from this sermon, Rom 14:17-19 and 1 Pet 3:10-12, tell us to pursue peace.

Gary Koh made this introductory statement: We become what we pursue. What are we pursuing in this life? Do people see Christ in us? Ultimately, when we pursue Christ, we become more like Him.

WE BECOME WHAT WE PURSUE

1. Know Peace

"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

Prior to his departure, Jesus assured his disciples of the peace that He was leaving them with. This peace is one that comes from within regardless of external circumstances.

In the Bible, peace is referred to as eirēnē (i-ray'-nay) or shalom. It is important to distinguish between real and fake peace.

Peace begins with a right relationship with God through Jesus, our Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6). In addition, Jesus' coming and death on the cross broke down every barrier in our relationships with people (Eph 2:14). By the blood of Christ, our relationships with others are restored.

Other than our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships with people, peace also includes wholeness of life or body, contentment and tranquility, victory over one's enemies as well as security, safety, prosperity and success. God wants to bless us financially too so that we can bless others.

2. Get Peace

The source of peace is a relationship with God. A restored relationship with God and with a hunger for more of Him is the way to get peace.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Phil 4:4-9

From the verses above, choosing to rejoice in the Lord (v.4) shifts our focus from our temporal problems to our eternal God. Base everything on who God says He is.

In addition, we get peace when we choose not to be anxious (v.6a). Regardless of the situation we are in, continually switch our eyes from the temporal things we face to our eternal God and give thanks to Him for everything.

Instead of complaining, when we choose to give thanks (v.6b), our perspective shifts from our problems to our God. By surrendering to the Lord who is always in control, peace is restored in us.

Stinking thinking results in a stinking life. A life that is girded by thoughts that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable (v.8) is a transformed one that radiates the peace of Christ where one can share about a God who is always in control.

3. Make Peace

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matt 5:9

Having experienced the peace of God in our relationship with Him, we are called to be peacemakers, and not merely peace-lovers nor peace-keepers. Gary Koh exhorts us to be peacemakers who will carry the gospel of peace (Eph 6:14-15) to the people around us.

CONCLUSION

As Christians, we have experienced the abundant peace of God. The good news that we have is not ours to keep. Eirēnē (i-ray'-nay) or shalom is to be declared in our homes and in the lives of the people around us as we get peace, know peace and make peace.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you tend to worry about and how do you currently handle such worries?

2. Read and reflect on the verses in Phil 4:4-9. How can you apply what Gary Koh shared in his sermon on how to get peace in your situation?

3. Think of a person who is struggling or facing some challenging situation. In what ways can you bring God's peace to this person?