

John 16:32-33 “Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

This comforting verse is found within a larger section of the Gospel of John.

- Chapters 13-17 make up what theologians refer to as the Farewell Discourse.
- These are Jesus’s final words of reassurance, comfort, and encouragement to His disciples in the upper room before His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion.

Perfect peace: rooted and established in an unchanging God whose love is inextinguishable

Isa. 26:3-4 “I will keep them in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Me; because they trust in Me. Trust in the Lord forever; for in the Lord is everlasting strength.”

JOHN 16:33 AMP

“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]

Trouble:

- Pressure that constricts and rubs together; squeeze into someplace narrow; internal pressure that causes someone to feel confined - restricted, without options.
- Psa. 18:19 “He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.”

The narrow place is that which constrains us and keeps us trapped and confined. This may be sin or circumstances, but it is always a place of struggle, difficulty, hardship, and even suffering. It represents the opposite to the full life we now have in Christ.

- Anxiety, burden of heart
- The afflictions Jesus had to undergo (and which, therefore, His followers must not shrink from)
 - Tribulation:
 - Distress:
 - Suffering:

2Corinthians 4:7-9, 13-14, 16-18

“...we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed...

“I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself...

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **No we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**”

Be courageous: of good courage, cheer

- Radiate a warm confidence - peace - Emboldened to show courage - God strengthening the believer, empowering us with a bold inner-attitude
 - Be confident:
 - Be undaunted:
 - Be filled with joy:
- **Maintaining Peace**: so the Christian, who consistently lives out their righteousness, remains effective in his relationship with Jesus, and its peace, by keeping himself unharmed and spotless from his adversaries devices, assaults - the devil. (2Peter 1:1-11)

In this verse, we see two certain realities:

- 1) The followers of Jesus **will** suffer great distress
- 2) Jesus has already won the victory.
 - He didn't want his disciples to be under the delusion that their future ministry would be full of ease and comfort, and He doesn't want us to think that either.
 - Following Christ is difficult and there will be opposition.
 - Yet, the reality of Christ's victory over sin and death by His own death and resurrection provides peace and courage in the midst of that opposition.

How Are Christians Invited to Live in Light of John 16:33?

- The certainty of trouble applies to all who follow Him.
- The Apostle Paul stated bluntly in 2 Timothy 3:12, “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
- Anyone who claims that believing in Jesus automatically brings financial prosperity, physical health, and perfect relationships hasn’t read their Bible.
- Life is difficult and the Christian life is often tougher.
- The Bible, far from dodging this fact, acknowledges it and embraces it.
- Jesus Himself guaranteed it.
- Instead of promising to eliminate trouble from our lives, Jesus instead promises to give peace and comfort **in the midst of trouble**.

An appropriate way to respond to Jesus’s words in John 16:33 is to ask, **“What do I hope in?”**

Proverbs 13:12 says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”

- Could it be that troubles and trials make our heart sick because we are placing our hope in that which does not satisfy—a job, a relationship, a position?
- Christ calls us, not to place our hope in temporal, uncertain things, but in His eternal victory over sin and death on the cross of Calvary.
“It is the victory of God that the Christian celebrates, knowing that all enemies (past, present, and future) have already been defeated, even death itself”
- This is why Jesus exhorts us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt. 6:20-21)
- If your treasure and your hope is not in Christ, than His encouragement to “take heart” in John 16:33 will mean little to you.
- But if your hope *is* in Christ, then no trouble or trial in this life will take that hope away from you.

What Are the Principle Lessons of John 16:33?

1. Count on trouble

2 Take courage in Christ's victory.

This is the essence of the Christian life.

- We should never be shocked or surprised when trials come our way.
- As the Apostle Peter says, “Don’t be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12)

3. Know that true and lasting courage must be based in an assurance, not in ourselves, but in *Christ*.

- Whenever Jesus uttered the phrase, “Take heart” or “be of good courage,” He always backed it up with an assurance regarding His own work.
- You are called to take heart, not in your own abilities or will power, but in the finished work of Jesus.