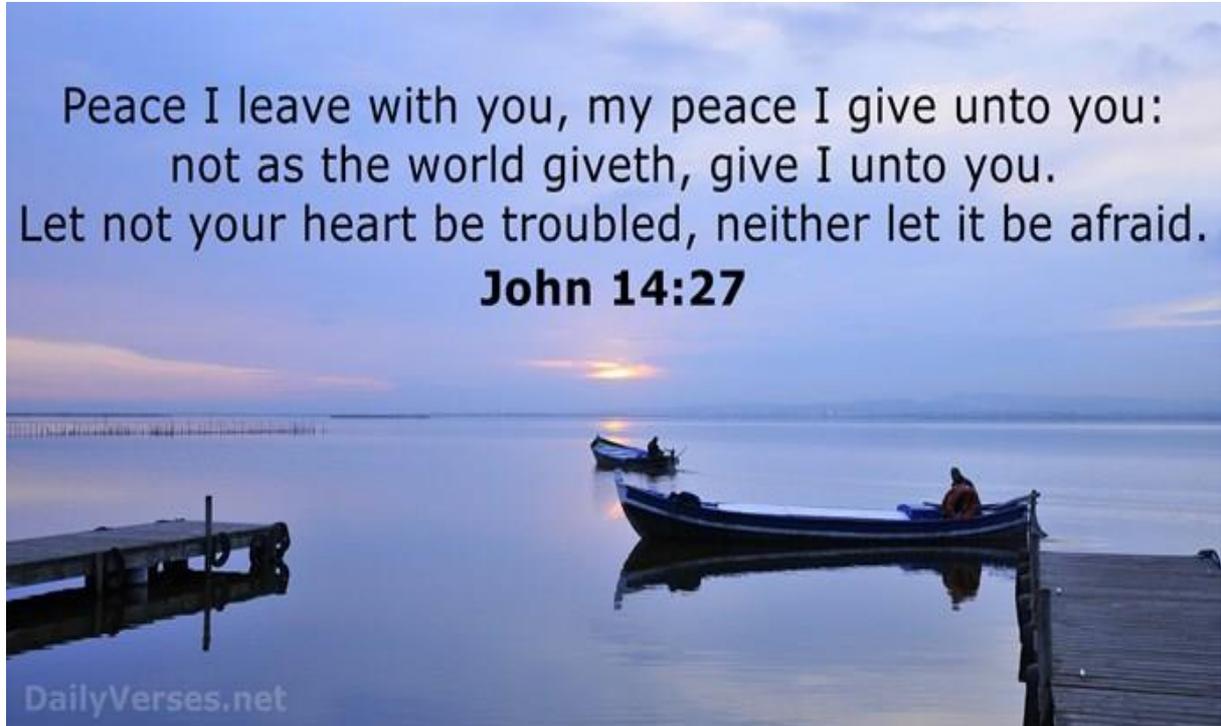


“Encouragement for the Journey”



Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27



Experiencing the Peace of God

Message

When Jesus offered His promise of peace to His disciples, His timing was perfect. It was in the Upper Room the night before He went to the Cross. Their lives were about to be completely upended. They would shortly be in desperate need of Jesus' unique brand of peace. The world cannot produce lasting, life-sustaining peace. That is why Jesus offered His disciples a different kind of peace- *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives” (John 14:27).*

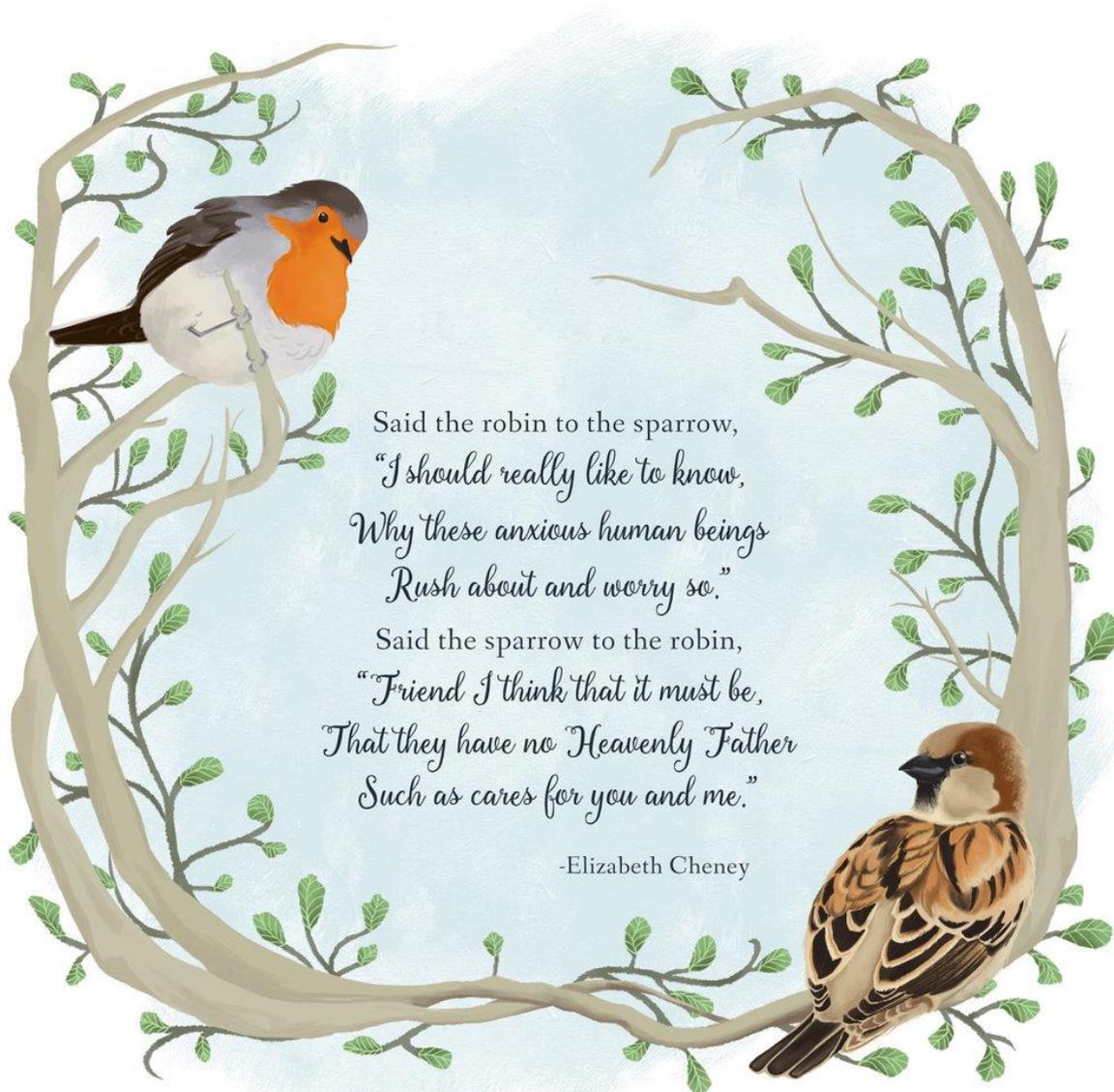
The peace which Jesus promised was not an absence of conflict, for the early believers faced conflict on all sides. Instead the peace Jesus promised was a deep inner peace made possible by the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of each believer. The Holy Spirit's peace enables us to find a peace from God deep within as we face the difficulties and ups and downs of life. This isn't peace as the world gives it, or as we might prefer if to be. Nor is it a promise of a problem free life. Instead it is peace despite the problems, pressures and conflicts.

At the time of writing, these words are a great comfort for all of us as we come to grips with the COVID-19 Pandemic and the restrictions that have been put in place to fight this Pandemic.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything 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” (Philippians 4:6-7).*

The heart of this part of Paul's letter to the Philippian Christians is his plea that the people refrain from becoming so “uptight” in everyday living that they fail to realize the calmness and serenity that can come to one who has placed unqualified trust in the Lord. Only in complete surrender does perfect peace come to a Christian. The Lord Jesus had assured his listeners in His Sermon on the Mount that their heavenly Father was aware of all their needs (Mt 6:31).

I came upon this delightful little poem by Elizabeth Cheney entitled “Said the robin to the sparrow”. We can find great wisdom in the “conversation overheard in an orchard” as the two birds chatted with each other.



Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Friend I think that it must be,
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."

-Elizabeth Cheney

Our journey may still stretch out ahead with all kinds of twists and turns. And perhaps we can't quite see the light at the end of the tunnel yet. But as we turn our worries into prayers and present them to God, we have that sure and certain hope that the Lord is with us. What a blessing and comfort that knowledge is. Let us place our hand in His and step forward in His Peace.

Amen.

With kind thoughts,
Glenda