

They Did Not Understand (Part II)

These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.—John 16:33

In our last devotional, I wrote about the confusion that existed in the lives of the disciples during the days before the crucifixion. Jesus knew this was a difficult time for His followers. In the garden, Jesus prayed for them saying, “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those who you have given me.”

Jesus was trying to prepare the disciples for His death and give them advice for their lives after His death. “These things I have told you, that you should not be made to stumble (John 16:1).” He had compassion on His disciples and even though He had much to teach them that week about the trials they would face, he interjected many of His precious promises to them.

Even though they did not understand what He was doing, the scripture tells us that “He loved them to the end (John 13:1).” He gave them many assurances of His love and His care. He promised them the Holy Spirit who would be their helper and bring to their remembrance all things He had taught them (John 14). He guaranteed them peace, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give you (John 14:17).” He went on to tell them “Let not your heart be troubled, neither be afraid (28).” He assured them of His love by telling them, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends (John 15:13).” He promised them perfect joy, “My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full (11).”

He gave His disciples this affirmation, “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends (John 15:14).” Like the disciples, we may not understand all that God is doing in our lives but we can trust Him. We have the assurance of His love, joy, and peace. He has called us His friends.