



Introduction

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Prepare:

Welcome to re:Connect: PEACE. Within the next few pages you will journey on a discovery of what true PEACE is. Better yet, you will become more intimately connected with Jesus who is the author of our PEACE. Your first leg of the journey (the introduction) brings you to Colossians 3:15, it's your boarding pass to the other stops along this journey to PEACE. To maximize the most of this journey, there are some important things you will need for your trip to PEACE. Make sure you've packed the following:

Your Prayer Life – This is essential as you will need to invite the Holy Spirit to journey on this path with you. As well as asking our heavenly Father to renew your mind (Romans 12:2) with each step you take.

Your Bible – Of course you don't want to travel without your passport. It's your access to your destination called PEACE.

Your Boarding Pass - Colossians 3:15, "And let the PEACE that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in PEACE. And always be thankful." (NLT)

Your Traveling Companions – Will be our fellow sisters who are ready and excited to take the journey to PEACE along with you. It will be a girls' trip like no other!

Your Survival Kit – One Blind-fold, Mason Jar/ Glass Container for each lady (They will take these home with them.) 15 Post-it notes, pens/ pencils and a copy of the hymn, "It Is Well." Let the journey begin!

Immerse:

If we look at television or read the newspapers today there are so many things that come to shake, dare I say destroy, our PEACE. From the threats of ISIS, turbulent weather, unstable economic systems, and political uncertainty to the everyday issues of life that come to test our resolve as Christians. How do we maintain our PEACE? Even more, how do we know we are walking in PEACE? Do we truly know what PEACE is? This year we are on a journey to the place of PEACE that God the Father has so graciously afforded each of his children through His Son, Jesus Christ. As you walk the pages of this devotional, you along with your fellow traveling sisters will learn to step out of life's chaos into the place of PEACE.

PEACE, what is it? Better yet, what is PEACE not? PEACE is not the absence of conflict, issues, or trouble. PEACE is not having to face any of life's cares, but it is the calm assurance that no matter what life presents to us our Father in heaven has everything in control. It's knowing where your help comes from and resting in the One who can make the impossible possible.

Illustration:

Ask for two ladies to volunteer. Blind-fold one of the ladies. Place the lady that is blind-folded in front of the other with some space in between. Now ask the lady who is blind-folded to fall back with the assurance that the other lady will not let her fall. The key word here is "assurance." When you have PEACE you are assured that God's got

you. Whether the situations around you make it seem as if you're falling, in spite of the fact that you may not see the whole picture there is an internal assurance, an internal calm that your Father won't let you fall. That's PEACE! It all has to do with trust and often-times trust means letting go of our need to control or know every detail. It means resting in the Father who sees the bigger picture and knows what lies ahead. When you trust someone no matter the chaos that is happening around you, you are convinced that they will come through for you. It is that conviction that launches you into the place called PEACE. When you have PEACE you trust Jesus, the One that has promised "never to leave you or forsake you." Here's something to ponder: think about a situation you are facing right now, do you trust God or do you need to maintain your control over the situation?

So, the question we all then must answer is how do we get this PEACE in our lives? Let's look back at our "boarding pass" Colossians 3:15. In this verse the apostle Paul shares three things that will get us to the place called PEACE.

First, **we must seek our Travel Agent**, Jesus. He knows how to get us there. Look at your boarding pass again (Colossians 3:15). Paul tells us that PEACE comes from Christ. We will never experience PEACE until we experience Christ. It is through our relationship with Jesus that He takes us to the place of PEACE – His presence. The prophet Isaiah declared that He is the "Prince of PEACE" (Isaiah 9:6). I once saw a t-shirt that said, "Know Jesus, know PEACE." How true that is!

Second, **we must check-in at our gate**. Paul in Colossians 3:15 writes that we are called to PEACE. God is consistently calling us to live in a place of PEACE. Have you ever sat in the airport waiting for a flight? At a certain time you hear the attendant at the gate announce your flight is ready to board. The attendant begins the boarding process but until you get up out of the seat, respond to the attendant's call, make your way to the boarding area, and hand them your boarding pass you will remain right where you are. The apostle Paul is telling us the same thing, God has invited us to live in PEACE but until we answer the call we will never get to the place of PEACE. Here's something to ponder: have you been focused on the situation and not on the attendant (the Holy Spirit) who has been calling you to PEACE.

Here's the third and final thing that will get us to the place called PEACE. **We must fly at the right altitude or should I say attitude**. Look back at the boarding pass one more time (Colossians 3:15). Paul ends the verse by reminding the saints at Colossae to "...always be thankful" (NLT). Every plane when heading to a destination has a determined cruising altitude. You know, you hear the pilot come over the PA system and say we have now reached our cruising altitude of 35,000 feet, you can

Engage:

1. How would you define PEACE?
2. Share a life example of when you walked in PEACE?
3. What are some examples of things that distract you from hearing the call to PEACE?
4. Have each lady take one of the mason jars/glass containers, and 15 post-it notes. On each post-it have them write one thing they are thankful for and place it in their jar. Have each lady take their jar home and put it in a special place and encourage them to visit their jar, pull out one of the post its and read it as a reminder to be thankful when they feel as if their PEACE is being shaken. I encourage each lady as you journey through this study to add to your jar as you encounter each leg of the journey my fellow writers will take you on. At the end of the study look back at your individual jars and see how much you have to be thankful for and rest in the PEACE knowing God's got you!

Engage:

1. What do you do to create an atmosphere of PEACE in your environment?
2. What tools can you utilize to handle stressful situations?
3. What song when you hear it evokes a sense of PEACE for you?

now pull out your electronic devices and enjoy the remainder of the flight as our attendants come through the cabin with complimentary beverages. In other words, we've reach a point where you can continue to function in the air as you would on the ground. I want to suggest to you what Paul is trying to tell not just the church at Colossae but us as well. When we reach an altitude of thankfulness or an attitude of gratefulness we will be able to function in an unstable environment as if our feet were secure on the ground.

In Colossians 3:15 according to Strong's Concordance, the word PEACE, translated in the origin text, means security, safety, prosperity, felicity (www.biblestudytools.com). In other words, storms could be raging all around you but in spite of the storms you feel safe and secure. When you have PEACE it's like laughing in the rain.

Closing:

In closing meditate on these words by the hymn writer, Horatio G. Spafford:

When PEACE, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

I want you to know my fellow traveling sisters that PEACE is attending your way. You are NEVER alone on this journey, the Prince of PEACE is not only your Travel Agent but He is your Pilot and will get you to your destination safely. I pray for safe travel to this place called PEACE.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for being our PEACE. Thank You for sending Jesus our Lord and Savior who is the Prince of PEACE. We thank You that we experience Your PEACE, which exceeds anything we can understand. It is Your PEACE that will guard our hearts and minds as we live in Christ Jesus (NLT). As my fellow sisters journey through this study I pray that they will find PEACE in You on each leg of the journey. I pray that afterwards they will be able to look at their life's circumstances from a whole new perspective, knowing that You have all things in control. May we learn to rest completely in You! Father tune our ears to hear the call to PEACE and give us the courage to answer. This I pray in Jesus' name!