



Prairie Voice

We Have Come This Far By Faith

April 2024

Finding Peace When Life is out of Control

Taken from Encouragement for Today/Proverbs 31 Ministries

By Lauren & Michael McAfee—January 2nd, 2024

"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](#) (NIV)

When things don't go our way, our reflex is to grasp for control, organize and systematize, plot and plan, and make bold declarations of what we'll do if things don't get turned around fast.

My husband and I experienced this when our adoption journey took years longer than we'd expected and again when our daughter was diagnosed with cancer seven weeks after we brought her home. We tried to strategize, scheme and barter with God yet again when a judge told us to hand over our foster son to his biological family a year after we had brought him into our home.

When we realize deep in our souls that we are not in control, but God is, we know peace and hope beyond our circumstances. We begin to understand that God can bring good to us despite the most evil and devastating events in our lives. God is orchestrating all things for His eternal glory and our eternal joy.

Just before [Jesus](#) faced His crucifixion, He gathered His disciples in the upper room to share a final meal together. Jesus knew they would feel fearful after His crucifixion, so He told them, *"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](#)).

Peace. Wholeness. The basic definition of the word "[shalom](#)" can mean "made good," "fully restored," "set at one again." It's the sense that whatever was missing has been returned, whatever was lacking has been replaced, whatever was fractured has been brought back together.

Just as Jesus offered peace to His disciples, God longs to usher peace into your life. But this isn't something He will force on you. This is something you choose.

If peace seems inaccessible, ask God to search you and know your heart, to try you and know your thoughts, like David prayed in [Psalm 139:23-24](#). Invite God to probe the innermost part of you to see what might be askew. Are you believing that God is who He says He is? That He is doing what He said He would do? What unbelief could be leading you away from the peace to be found in Him today?

God doesn't stand back as we struggle or try to convince us pain doesn't exist - it does. But in His very presence, God declares over us that our pain doesn't exist in a vacuum. Pain does not get to win. And by His power, accompanied by prevailing peace, God will walk us from here to eternity in safety, holding our hand each step of the way.

Search me, God, and know my heart. Show me today if I am not believing in who You say You are. You promise a peace that is different than the peace the world gives. You promise hope that this pain will one day disappear. Lead me in the way everlasting. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



One-Tired
Preacher

“Through the Son There is a Way”

A dozen years ago, Deb and I spent three days in Vegas with our son Dan and daughter in law, Katie, as we were on our way to the World senior games in Saint George Utah. I wasn't sure the “City of Sin” was an appropriate place for a pastor? For sure there were many things we avoided in Vegas, but I discovered there is far more to Vegas than gambling and sin. The hotels are incredible!!! We stayed at the Mandalay Bay with 4800 rooms; it had a beach resort which had a water park, wave pool and river ride! It also had the fantastic Shark Reef and numerous other impressive attractions. Deb and I tried to book the least expensive room. However, we found ourselves staying in a luxurious suite with six large screen T.V.'s, a very large tub, a king size bed and enormous glass windows overlooking the strip. The curtains were remote controlled! How was this possible? My son paid for the upgrade, so through the son there is a way!

After a breakfast buffet at the beach side café complete with King Crab legs, we picked up our rental car. Deb and I booked a small economy car for our week at the Huntsman World Senior games. However, we drove away in a sporty white convertible mustang. With all the sights to see there isn't much better than a convertible.

Deb and I spent our evenings drinking smoothies and driving around seeing all the marvelous sights. That convertible was awesome. However, it was too expensive for me, but Dan paid for the upgrade! Through the son there is a way!

The ladies went shopping at the Outlet mall so Dan took me to Dream Racing where you can drive race cars for five laps around a 1.2-mile track. The problem is it takes less than a minute to do so, and it costs \$400!!! So, I declined! However, not only did I drive a race car, but I drove two race cars! First a Porsche and then a Ferrari, and I literally had the thrill of my life! How was this possible? Dan paid, so through the son there is a way!

We wanted to go to a Cirque du Soleil show. We'd heard that the stage and the lighting themselves are incredible. The show was apparently beyond belief, with incredible precision acrobatic stunts! I knew I could watch a show like that for hours. However, Vegas shows aren't cheap, and apparently by Vegas standards, I am!!! The cost for this show for Deb and I was about \$400, which was far more than I was willing to spend! However, we went as Dan paid, through the son there is a way!

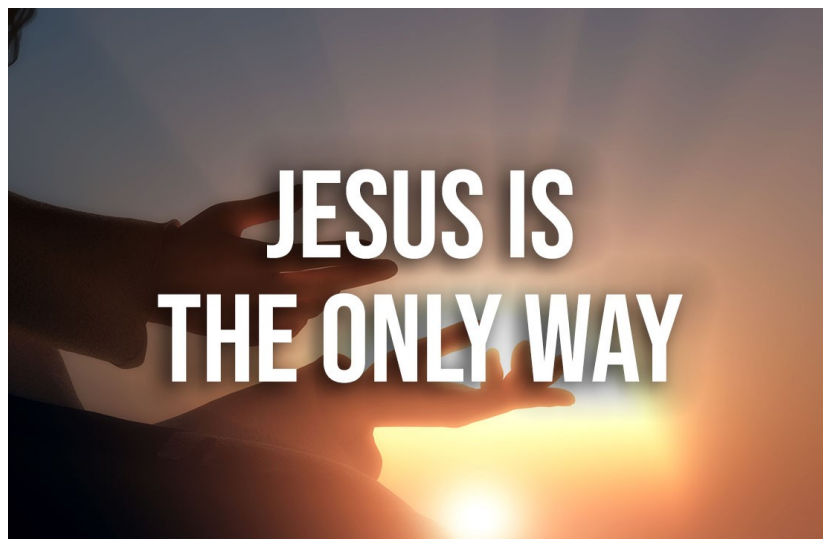
God offers us all eternity in paradise! The Eternal life that God has promised is a quantity and quality of life that is without end. Heaven will be above and beyond anything we can imagine, including your best weekend in Vegas! If one can have fun in Sin City, just think about how much fun you will have in the Eternal City with no sin? In Vegas, it was heartbreaking to see so many with empty faces sitting for hours in front of machines, and others drunk or stoned stumbling aimlessly down the streets.

In Heaven the good is thousands of times better than we could ask or imagine, and the evil will not be there at all, now that's a city I want to go to! However, the bible says "our iniquities have separated us from God" and "*the wages of sin is death*" and "nothing impure will ever enter". The cost of going to heaven is far more expensive than going to Vegas, all the money in the world can't buy it! God has set the price at perfection! This means our glory must be equal to God's to get in, and we all fall immeasurably short of that! So how is it possible to spend eternity in heaven? God sent Jesus to die as a sacrificial lamb on the cross. Through the death of Jesus, God's wrath against our sin was satisfied, as Jesus paid a debt He never owed, because we owed a debt we could never pay! When we believe in Jesus as our Saviour, God exchanges our sinfulness for Christ's righteousness, so through the Son there is a way!

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jn 14:6

In His Grip,

Pastor Dave Hesje



April Birthdays

3	Naweed Razaee	12	Breanna Manske
3	Ashley Stamnes	14	Heather Norrish
4	Kelley Moir	17	Hollis Scheller
5	Larry Hundebly	17	Janet Hundebly
7	Riley Scrimbitt	18	Graeme Norrish
7	Nikolas Maclean	22	Doug Wankel
7	Mark Rependa	24	Meryl Joel
10	Dana Adams	24	Glen Gardner
10	Marie Bush	28	Owen Akre
11	Sandra Bartel	28	Corry Downie

April Anniversaries

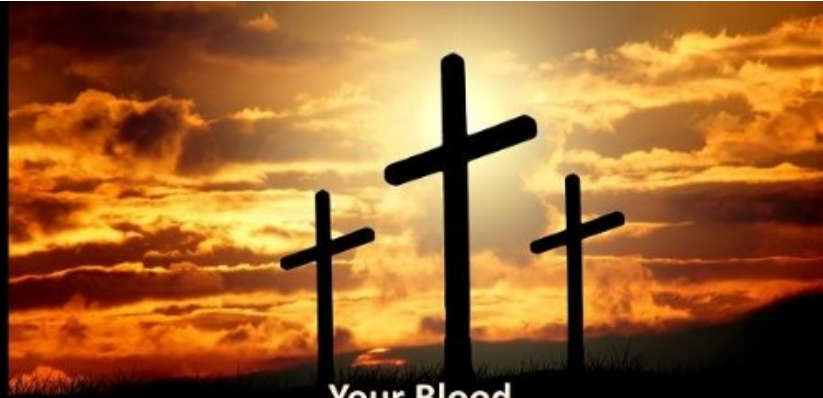
2	Brian & Judy Brown	10	Jake & Tricia Dekok
10	Larry & Val Hundebly	18	Owen & Marilyn Akre



April 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Evening Bible Study 7pm	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 AM	8	9	110 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Evening Bible Study 7pm	121 AFLC Conference	12 AFLC Conference	13 AFLC Conference
14 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 AM	15	16	17 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Evening Bible Study 7pm	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:30 am Communion Service	22	23	24 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Evening Bible Study 7pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 AM	29	30				



Your Blood

Beautiful saviour and precious Lord,
I thank you for your blood
That flowed that day at Calvary,
A demonstration of your love

For no one has ever loved that much
For their life to be poured out,
But you took upon your beaten body
The death sentence that was ours

We can never fully comprehend
All that you had to endure,
You came a sinless, sacrificial Lamb
And offered a life so pure

We read how you were so mistreated,
Rejected with no mercy or love,
But still, you willingly laid down your life
And poured out your life's blood

For it's by your blood, we can be healed,
Forgiven and set free
It was necessary that you died for us
So we may have eternity.

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