

God's Terrifying Grace-A Personal Story

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

JOHN 14:27

Written by Bill Perkins

I have lived through seasons
when fear held a grip on my mind-
my heart-
a constrictor tightening
until no breath of hope remained.
Only darkness.
Only dread.
Only the certainty
that loss was sure.
And permanent.

Fear of losing someone I cherished.
Certainty that the loss
would not be recovered.
Despair because what I had built
had crumbled.
Fear of watching someone precious
slip away.

Grief pressed hard.
Thoughts tormented me.
And I begged God
to spare me the loss.

He didn't.

And like Jeremiah,
I said in my heart,
"My hope has perished."
Lamentations 3:18

But in that same darkness,
with nothing around me changed,
a word rose in my mind-
a word Jesus spoke
on the night His own heart was breaking.

"Peace."

Then more:

"I give to you."

John 14:27

Then more still:

"Not as the world gives."

John 14:27

And then the promise
spoken into a room thick with fear:

"I will not leave you as orphans;

I will come to you."

John 14:18

Those words-
spoken by the One
who knew sorrow,
who felt anguish,
who faced the cup alone-
became the turning point.

Not the removal of grief.
Not the prevention of loss.
But the presence of the One
who walks into the darkness
and does not leave.

And what He gave me there
became more precious
than what I feared losing.

That is why I call it
God's Terrifying Grace.

Not because it harms,
but because to know it,
you must stand
in the place

you never wanted to stand-
and find Him faithful
even there.

You may not know this about Jesus:
His grace can be terrifying— it waits in the place we never wanted to stand.

And that is why it's personal:
in the moment my despair was deepest,
when I savored the sweetness of His presence,
I realized with a kind of terror
that this peace was found
only by walking through
the very place
I could not bear to face.