

## BESIDE THE QUIET WATER

<sup>5</sup>Find rest, O my soul, in God alone: My hope comes from Him. <sup>6</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. <sup>7</sup>My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. <sup>8</sup>Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge." (Psalm 62: 5-8)

She sat down and proceeded to talk: "You see how they kill; how they are murdering the children. Everyday explosion, every place bombing! Blood and death is continuous. Tell me, what about your place. How is your country? I hear the same is happening there."

I took a stance and I answered her: "***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)

She looked at me and said, "We need such beautiful words. Only we are seeing and hearing blood, wars and fights all around. We are tortured by the sad news that everyday we view from the TV and the satellite. Our atmosphere at home is so stressed by this news. When we are on the table, my husband, the children and I, we sometimes lose our appetite and soon we stop eating. We are depressed and anxious about our desolate and broken down country.

Then I replied to her: "***Come to me, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.***" (Matthew 11:28) Our weariness is from our depression and anxieties. Our burden is the worry of this world we live in. But don't think much about your previous country. Don't you know that, "***The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.***" (Psalms 24:1-2) Wherever you are living, that is your country and a blessing from God for you. Everything we have is from God and not from anyone else. Therefore, be glad to what God gave you and enjoy the blessings and grace; live with joy in your house, enjoy your husband and your children.

With smile on her lips she said: "Your words are comforting, beautiful and sweet. I can see that you are living in peace. You are shielded with joy and not offended by the outside atmosphere."

And I replied to her, "***Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request 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)

She stood up and said, "*I am shivering. The flesh of my body is shaken by your words.*"

What I told you are not my words, but these are the true words of my lover. "***His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this is my friend.***" (Song of Songs 5:16) He is the Lord Jesus. Everyday I speak to Him and I read his words in the

Bible. He is my Shepherd. I am one of his sheep. I follow Him and He is caring to me. "***The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet water, He restores my soul. He guides me in path of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.***" (Psalm 23: 1-6)

Sincerely she said, "We need these words - so promising and so comforting. I need such a peace that you have.

The wars, the killings and the strife are not only around or outside you. There is more in your heart and that is the cause of your trouble; because you are living away from the light, you are in a dark world. The Lord Jesus said, "***I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.***" (John 8: 12) You are living in darkness because you are living in sin. Sin is not only by stealing, killing, lying, or adultery but it is every evil thought and wicked desire in the heart: "***Search me, O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***" (Psalm 139: 23-24) You are born from parents with sin. "***Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.***" (Psalm 51: 5) You cannot get rid of your sin by yourself. You need a Saviour. The Lord Jesus came to this world for this purpose. "***For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.***" (John 3: 16) Jesus suffered on the cross for your sins and died to give you eternal life. He rose from the dead and He will come again to judge the whole world. ***Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*** (John 11: 25-26) And she replied, "*Yes I believe in Jesus!*"

So, you have to open your heart to him, invite him into your life to cleanse you from sin by his blood, and to fill you with His Holy Spirit to enjoy His peace and His love.

She demanded, "***Bring me the Bible to read His words.***" And I assured her saying, "***You have chosen the right thing to do.***" This is what you need to do, to have faith in GOD and to grow by HIS word - the truth that will set you free.

**Let us pray:** "*Father God in heaven, we come to You in the name of Jesus who died for us on the cross. We thank You for the time we spent together in your presence. Thank you Lord for my dear sister. Thank You that You open her heart to believe in you and invite you to enter her life as her Lord and Saviour. Cleanse her Lord from all sin. Help her to read your word and to grow in faith with your love. Teach her all your ways, and guide her by your Holy Spirit. Fill her with joy and peace, and protect her from the evil one. Bless her family and loved ones and let them know You as Lord and God. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen!*"