**August 3 Sermon - Pastor Keith Moore**

**When Fear Fills Your Soul**

**Focus Passages: John 14:27**

**Icebreaker Question:** What's one irrational fear you had as a kid (like monsters under the bed or quicksand in the backyard) that you can laugh about now?

**Transition Statement:** In our icebreakers, we shared some of those quirky fears from childhood, and while we can laugh at them now, sometimes fear, regret, and remorse can feel like a weight we carry for years. Pastor Keith reminded us that troubled hearts often come from disobedience to God, and that guilt isn’t just a feeling, it’s a signal. In John 14:27, Jesus gives His disciples the solution to fear. Let’s take a few minutes and review the sermon.

**Discussion Questions**

1. **Read John 14:27.** What does Jesus mean when He distinguishes "My peace" from the peace the world gives?

**Leader Guide:** The peace of Jesus is divine, a gift, unchanging, deep-rooted, and beyond our comprehension. It is present no matter the circumstances. In contrast, the world's peace is circumstantial, fragile, conditional, ever-changing, surface-level, and temporary. Help the group discuss how these differences impact their experience of peace.

1. Pastor Keith discussed different types of fear: reverent fear, wise fear, phobias, and troubled heart fear. Can you relate to any of these categories of fear in your own life?

**Leader Guide:** Pastor Keith defined "reverent fear" as a positive, good fear, a holy awe and submission to God, rooted in love and respect. "Wise fear" is a good, natural, God-given emotional response to real danger that protects us. Phobias are extreme or irrational fears. "Troubled heart fear" is an overwhelming, tormenting fear that unsettles our souls.

1. The sermon emphasized that the opposite of fear is peace, not courage. Why is peace, specifically the peace of Jesus, the true solution to fear?

**Leader Guide:** Jesus achieved this peace through His death on the cross, reconciling people to God. This "Shalom" encompasses order, provision, harmony, tranquility, flourishing, goodness, wellness, strength, and security with God and people. Discuss how the depth and source of Jesus' peace make it uniquely capable of addressing fear at its root.

1. "Peace is not the absence of trouble, it is the presence of God". How does this statement from J. Oswald Sanders reshape your understanding of peace, especially when facing difficult circumstances?

**Leader Guide:** This quote emphasizes that true peace is not dependent on external circumstances but on the internal presence of God. Facilitate a discussion on how maintaining a focus on God's presence can bring peace even amidst chaos, and how this contrasts with a worldly view of peace.

1. **Read Romans 5:1.** Pastor Keith stated, "You cannot have the peace of God until you have peace WITH God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ!" How does receiving peace with God through faith in Christ provide the foundation for experiencing the peace of God?

**Leader Guide:** This question helps the group connect their salvation experience with the ongoing peace of God in their lives. Discuss how a right relationship with God is the starting point for overcoming fear.

1. Pastor Keith mentioned several "tools" or gifts: remembering the reality of Heaven, remembering the Person of Jesus, remembering the Power of Prayer, remembering the Promised Holy Spirit, and remembering the Holy Spirit will guide you into the Truth (God's Word). Which of these gifts do you find most helpful in cultivating peace, and why?

**Leader Guide:** Use the "hammer/tool" illustration to remind the group that these gifts are meant to be used, not left on a shelf. Encourage sharing practical ways they can "put to use" these gifts in their daily lives to combat fear and embrace peace.

1. **Read Philippians 4:6-7.** How does prayer, combined with thanksgiving, lead to "God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand"?

**Leader Guide:** Pastor Keith emphasized that we must "actually pick up the tool of prayer and pray, pray, pray!" This passage links prayer and gratitude directly to experiencing God's peace that guards our hearts and minds. Facilitate a discussion on the role of consistent and heartfelt prayer in experiencing peace in fearful situations.