

## There Is Hope

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### John 16:33 (NLT)

***“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”***

We live in uncertain times with so many changes in our daily lives. These issues are not new but can be a challenge because we are juggling multiple ones simultaneously. We are living through a global pandemic, racial tensions, violence, inflation and increased mental and emotional distress. The loss of life has almost become unbearable with covid and other illnesses taking their toll. Even with all these colliding pandemics in our world, we are assured of the peace that only Jesus can give us.

In the passage before us, Jesus is comforting the disciples as He shares His departure from their presence. He has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, but they cannot appreciate the promise because of their grief and sadness. The news that Jesus is going back to the Father is confusing and disappointing. Even though Jesus has promised them comfort and peace, they cannot look past the pain of the present moment. They are in despair.

This is how we can be as we experience our everyday problems, disturbing diagnoses and overwhelming obstacles. We want the assurance that Jesus is with us. We are not alone but may not understand how His presence will manifest when we need Him most. This is when the Holy Spirit takes over and gives us what we need the most, peace. Jesus warned us we will experience trials and sorrows, but we don't have to face them alone. There is hope because the Holy Spirit will not leave us comfortless. There is hope because trouble is temporary. There is hope because our faith is in Jesus who promised to never leave or forsake us. Hope is in our history; hope is in our present and hope is in our future. As we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He gives us the power to overcome whatever is trying to overtake us.

If you know of someone in need of encouragement offer them hope through the promises in John 16. Let them know the Holy Spirit will be their comfort and guide.