



# Encouraging Words

with Darlene Sala

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## NEED PEACE?

Have you noticed that when you see something in your home day after day, soon you fail to notice it? My husband experienced that when a brass plaque appeared on his desk next to his computer monitor. The message? A verse from Paul's letter to the Colossians that reads: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts!" (3:15).

Wondering where it had come from, Harold picked it up and placed it in a prominent place. Then a few days later, he glanced at the wall and noticed that a wooden base slightly larger than the brass plaque with some dried glue on it was hanging from a nail. He realized the brass plaque had simply fallen from its base and landed where it got his attention.

He began focusing on the message on the plaque: "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." No, that isn't something that takes place automatically, but something you allow to happen—as if peace is knocking at the door of your life and you have barricaded the door with worries and concerns, piling the furniture of self-striving and your plans and goals against the door as though peace was an intruder.

God's peace can rule in your heart only as you allow the Prince of Peace to take control. What convicted Harold of his lapse is that right then there were a lot of things on his plate that he felt were consistent with what God wanted done, but when he is interrupted, he admits that like most of us, he gets impatient and, yes, irritated.

Who is really in control? God or our circumstances?

I don't know if God caused the brass plaque to drop off the wooden base, but I do know it got his attention and reproved him for allowing things that are unimportant to rob him of peace.

Yes, letting Christ's peace rule our hearts is a decision we make, something we choose to do. Think about it.