

## *I believe it was Jesus who said:* **“Peace I leave ... peace I give”**

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”*  
John 14:27

“I believe it was Jesus who said” powerful words in the New Testament book of John. The words of our great Rabbi do not tell his disciples they will live in peace, as much as it was to embolden each ones inner peace. John records these ten words from Jesus as he faced death and ultimately a physical departure from the presence of Peter, James, Andrew, Thomas and eight additional followers. The words were intended to be an assurance for the twelve and for you and me as well.

While I hold thoughts of peace for the planets inhabitants, I find it more and more difficult to believe there will be peace for every habitable land mass on earth...ever. This TALK is to address two definitions of peace. It will encourage the cessation of wars around the Globe, and the constant yearning for inner peace.

By chance of procreation, I was alive and hold strong memories about the “Space Race” and the formation of NASA. Twenty or more Kingsmill residents stood with me and my parents in our horse pasture to view (with unaided eye) the Russian Satellite, Sputnik as it’s faint dot of light passed over Kingsmill, Texas. All USA students could recite the names of the Mercury Astronauts, their wives and children, and the space capsules in which they were blasted to space. Fond memories indeed, but it was the Apollo program that held me and much of the world spellbound.

Remember the names Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins and you will likely know they were to brave travelers on Apollo 11 and first to land on the moon. Apollo 12, 14, 15 and 16 were able to also land humans on the lunar surface. The movie “Apollo 13” locked the names Fred Haise, John Swigert, and James Lovell in my memory bank due to the news coverage about a damaged space capsule and its inhabitants perilous struggle to return to earth.

Yes, I remember so much of the space race, but Apollo 17 was the sixth and final mission in the Apollo program that explored the lunar surface. Harrison Schmitt served as pilot of the lunar module, “Challenger.” Eugene Cernan was commander and Ronald Evans piloted the command module, “America.”

You likely remember photos of Earth from the lunar surface, but, in December of 1972 the “17” crew took a picture of the earth they titled “The Blue Marble.” The photograph is a glimpse into how fragile our planet is and how interconnected we are as human beings. The one thing I see each time I view that picture of earth is a simple confirmation that there are no boundaries. No lines are drawn in God’s creation to separate the United States from Canada or Mexico, or divide one continent from another. The surveyed imaginary lines are self-imposed to keep people separate and regrettably more likely to cause war to maintain the imaginary dividing lines. It is only

through human built blockades and armed soldiers that solidify the imaginary separation of human beings. Believe with me and all peace loving people that “The Blue Marble” photo is a visual reminder of the Breton prayer, “*Thy sea, O God, so great, my boat so small.*”

“The Blue Marble” is a picture in my mind when I pray for world peace. Believing I can see all people working together in love. It forms an image of people of all nationalities, races, creeds, and spiritual beliefs working together for the common good. We should all concur this is my planet, our planet, and each and every one of God’s creatures inhabits this home together. It one of the key reasons I used this graphic for the first two series almost two years ago.



The Psalmist provided a thought of peace and harmony for Earth’s inhabitants when these words were penned:

***The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it.***

Psalm 24:1

This TALK ends with my belief that when we recognize Peace among ALL people, we will be enriched by an inner peace and comfort direct from God. At the end of the third and final EVA, Cernan and Schmitt televised the unveiling of a plaque on the lunar module, which read..

“Here man completed his first exploration of the Moon, December 1972 A.D. ***May the spirit of peace in which he came be reflected in the lives of all mankind.***”

***Amen? Amen!!***

Peace always,  
Ted