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SWEET PEACE, THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE

Words and Music by Peter P. Bilhorn, 1865-1936

“Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble.” (Psalm 119:165)

The blessing of peace is the one prize that often eludes those who seem to have attained everything else in life. Yet peace is one of the choice gifts left to us by our departing Lord. Jesus’ mission was to bring God’s peace to man by bridging the way for us to enjoy eternal fellowship with our Creator.

Peter Bilhorn, author and composer of this hymn, began writing gospel songs shortly after his conversion at the age of 20. In all he wrote more than 2,000 songs while serving as the song leader for Billy Sunday and other leading evangelists.

One night he sang one of his most popular songs, ‘I Will Sing the Wondrous Story,’ at a camp meeting. A friend jokingly remarked, ‘I wish you would write a song to suit my voice as well as that song suits yours.’ Bilhorn responded, ‘What shall it be?’ ‘Oh, any sweet piece.’ That evening Bilhorn composed the music for the new hymn.

The following winter while travelling on a train, Bilhorn observed a tragic train accident. He saw one poor individual left lying in a pool of blood. That event reminded him of Christ’s blood atoning for our sins, which prompted him to write these words there on the train. He completed a hymn that has since moved many to a deeper realization and appreciation of God’s “wonderful gift from above.”

- ♪ There come to my heart one sweet strain, a glad and a joyous refrain; I sing it again and again – sweet peace, the gift of God’s love.
- ♪ Thru Christ on the cross peace was made. My debt by His death was all paid; no other foundation is laid for peace, the gift of God’s love.
- ♪ When Jesus as Lord I had crowned, my heart with his peace did abound; in Him the rich blessing I found – sweet peace, the gift of God’s love.
- ♪ In Jesus for peace I abide, and as I keep close to His side, there’s nothing but peace doth betide – sweet peace, the gift of God’s love.

Chorus: Peace, peace, sweet peace! Wonderful gift from above! O wonderful, wonderful peace! Sweet peace, the gift of God’s love. AMEN.

*Amazing Grace -366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions
by Kenneth W. Osbeck*

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

