Butterfly Peace?

It was a perfectly lovely afternoon, my birthday, in fact. My wife had taken me to a surprise location for lunch – a nice restaurant at Centennial Airport south of Denver. The only thing not so perfect was an obnoxious, infernal, 20 – 30 mile per hour wind! It was hard to walk from the parking lot to the terminal! We sat having a great meal, watching the private jets struggle to land in the gale. (The smaller planes weren't out at all.)

Then I noticed something totally amazing – a small, yellow monarch butterfly flitting gently among thrashing golden aspen trees! I grew up flying and understand a small modicum of aviation principles, and it seemed as if the little critter was totally unaffected by physics. He simply flew, almost normally, close the building below our second-floor window.

It struck me that this creature, one of God's lightest, had found his niche in life by navigating the swirling eddies of angry air all around him. Oh, that we as God's children could find our way so blissfully to *fly* among the eddies of life that swirl angrily around us in daily life. Crime, confusion, hate, drugs, personal heartaches and political headaches, faults and fears. Where can we ever find peace in such a broken, wicked world?

Hmmm, didn't Paul write, in Philippians 4:7, *"…the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*? But how can that happen?

First read verses 4-6, essentially rid yourself of anxiety through prayer. Then focus on verses 8, 9. *"Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."* (NASB, 1995).

Did you catch it? In verse 7, "…the peace of God will guard us. Then in verse 9, the God of peace will be *with* us! The storms of life might assail us, but the God of the storm will give us the wisdom, strength, and peace to navigate the gale like that merry little yellow butterfly *who had less problem flying the wind than the Lear Jet 35 that weighs 18,000 pounds!*

No wonder Jesus said, "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."* John 14:27.

Let the God of peace be with you today.

Ray Wallace