

The Peace of God

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“Peace” means: serenity, calm, quiet, stillness, harmony, accord, concord, amity, cease-fire, gentle, restful, untroubled, unruffled, undisturbed,

Introduction

Peace is more than just not having a troubled feeling or fear (John 14:27) It is a quiet assurance inside us that we are precious to God, we are His redeemed people. It is a knowledge that God is with us whatever our circumstances, it is a quiet calmness, a sense of well being in the face of turmoil and tempest’.

Peace is not the reflection of an unclouded sky, but rather the cleft of the rock in which the Lord hides His children when the storm is raging.

Peace of God or with God that we are going to discuss today is the peace that flows from God like a constant stream. His grace proceeds in practical ways for those who are at peace with God and who have peace through believing.

Peace is more than a mere cessation of hostilities, a momentary halt in a war. Rather, it is something positive. It is a specific relationship with God. It is a spiritual reality in the heart of a person which has come into vital contact with the infinite God.

Peace Killers

- ❑ Sin – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
- ❑ Relationship problems
- ❑ Evil doings 1Pt 3:11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. e.g Macbeth
- ❑ Unforgiving attitude – Joseph’s experience with his brothers,
- ❑ Lack of love – i.e. hatred, violence, suspicion, envy, selfishness, quarrel destruction etc
- ❑ The world around us
- ❑ Satan – disobedience, - Adam & Eve
- ❑ War – Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Chechenn, Rwanda

Peace Givers

- ❑ Peace with God
There can be no peace until we find peace with God. The Bible says “Now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace. God was at peace with Adam and Eve, they became His enemies by choice. This began in the Garden of

Eden, when Adam obeyed Satan, and rebelled against God. The history of mankind has been a record of futile effort to live happily and peacefully apart from God. We have peace with God when we do His will and please Him.

How can we discover this peace?

(i) Stop resisting God, instead do God's will. Create more time for Him. Through the Bible, through the church, through the lives of Christian people God has been trying to reach us with the message that He wants to give us peace. Anxieties and worries disappear when we give first place to God in our lives. The bible says "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33) Christ said to His disciples "My peace I give unto you" (John 14:27)

(ii) We will have peace with God when we surrender all to Him. The peace, which follows the acceptance of Christ as Saviour, is more than earthly peace. It is a great spiritual treasure even though it may not bring worldly prosperity with it. The Bible recalls "Be ye not stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the Lord" (2Chronicles 30: 8). There is peace with God for all that will invite the Prince of Peace to dwell in their hearts. Hebrews 13:20 - "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will."

Jn 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

□ Peace of God

Having found peace with God, next we will experience the peace of God. God does not consider us his slaves but His children, The Bible says "beloved now we are the sons of God". Having yielded to Him, we are led into the lush vineyards of His grace and made partakers of the fruit of the Spirit. Those who have experienced the peace of God will find it wonderfully adequate for their days. We too can experience the peace of God through Christ: "For He is our peace".

Philippians 4:7 – "The peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". Such a peace comes from knowing the joy of the Lord in our lives. The peace of God helps us to show a gentle, considerate attitude to everybody. The peace of God in us enables us to pray constantly, particularly about the things that trouble us - v 6

In John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you, not as the world gives." It is important for us as Christians to inherit this calm, unruffled, and unflappable spirit which was so obvious throughout Christ's life.

□ Peacemaker

If we have peace with God and the peace of God, we will become peacemakers. We will not only be at peace with our neighbours, but will be leading them to discover the source of true peace in Christ. We need to make peace in our community. The fruit of human nature is discord but “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness faith, meekness, temperance.” Gal 5:22 Peacemaking is a noble vocation but we need to know the peace Giver

□ Obeying and Trusting God

In the book of Deuteronomy Chap. 28, there are many blessings. Christians often like to claim these blessings but there is a condition which needs to be considered.

Let's turn to it. 28:1-2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 – “The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. v.13.

The more we obey God and love His commandment the more we will have a deeper peace.

Ps 119:165 “Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble” Total trust in the Lord brings a perfect peace to our heart,

Is:26:3 “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you”. David had total trust in His God when he said “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep for thou, Lord, only make me dwell in safety”

□ Contentment

To know Christ is to have the greatest of riches, a place in the kingdom of God. As a believer, having accepted God as our Saviour, we should have the assurance that peace is part of our inheritance in Christ Jesus. In Romans 5:1 “therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 2:14 - He himself is our peace”

□ Serving God

When Israel turned from the worship of Jehovah to the worship of idols, she lost her peace, and either fell prey to other nations or entered a series of wars. Any step away from the true and living God is a step in the direction of strife. The Bible says “There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked” verse 4 Prophet Isaiah said, “The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgement in their goings; they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goes therein shall not know peace. (Example of M) Giving time for the Lord always bring peace to our hearts. Our Christian life should not be static it should be dynamic, serving God in all ways within our capability and ability. The psalmist says “ I am glad when they ask me to come to the house of God.

We are told that the work of the angels is to worship and serve God day in day out. We need to make every effort to come to our Church meetings regularly, we need to come and sit under the teaching of the word of God, understanding it and applying its meaning in our daily life. The gifts that are given to us by God are worthless unless we exercise them in the house of the Lord. Serving God brings us closer to God. Joshua said, "As for me and my household we will serve the Lord"

□ Serving one another

Until we find peace with God we cannot know peace with our fellow man. It is the Holy Spirit in us that can enable us to serve one another. Making use of the gifts, talents, and abilities that the Lord has given us to meet the need of other people always brings joy and peace.

Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Mk 9:50 "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavour, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."

□ Witnessing and proclaiming the love of God

Luke 1:79 "to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Is 15:7 "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace?"

□ Confidence in God

Confidence in the God of Peace is very important. We all know that God Himself is described as the God of peace.

In the book of Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is prophesied as Prince of Peace. He brought peace to the natural elements – Mk 4:39 – "Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.". The gospel itself is a gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15

□ Righteousness

Is. 32: 17-18 "the work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever" v:18 "My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting place"

James 3:18 "Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

□ Learning to be still

We tend to think that by a lot of activity or by applying our wisdom or achieving more certificates is the sign of strength, the bible reminds us that our strength is in God.

Isaiah 30:15 - "For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "in returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

Ps: 4:8 "I will lie down in peace. (Lets read it) Ps 23: 4 "yea through I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me"

Conclusion

1Thes 5:23 now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Hebrews 13:20 - "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. V 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."