

Introduction

As we continue our study on roman's 14:17 about the Kingdom of God being righteousness, peace and joy, this week we continue to look at peace.

I have found in my times of peace that the Holy Spirit moves through me freely.

When I feel anxious or worried or even in a mode of performance, where there is no peace it becomes hard work, but when we are in a place of perfect peace, miracles, signs and wonders and His Word flow freely from us.

We really must come to an understanding that we are accepted, loved forgiven, and righteous before Almighty God. When we come to this realization, then peace will reign in our hearts.

Scripture

- **John 14:16-18** (NIV)

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[a] in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

That's why it is so important to understand that we can go into the throne of Grace with confidence and assurance, once we've been into the throne of Grace, we will also receive peace, so that we can minister out of peace and not out of frustration or condemnation.

The source of peace comes as a divine gift:

1. From the Father

Scripture

- **Romans 1:7**

To [you then] all God's beloved ones in Rome, called to be saints and designated for a consecrated life: Grace and spiritual blessing and peace be yours from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. From the Lord Jesus Christ

Scripture

- **John 14:27**

²⁷Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]

3. From the Holy Spirit

Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:3**

³Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of [and produced by] the Spirit in the binding power of peace.

God promises a covenant of peace.

Scripture

- **Isaiah 54:10**

¹⁰For though the mountains should depart and the hills be shaken or removed, yet My love and kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace and completeness be removed, says the Lord, Who has compassion on you.

What an awesome promise that God says His love, His kindness shall not depart from us and He makes a covenant of peace with us and completeness!

It cannot be removed because God is a covenant God. Signed sealed and delivered by the blood of Jesus Christ!

PEACE: Wholeness and wellbeing in all areas of your life!

So if I have sinned and go by what a lot of people say, how am I ever going to come to God for forgiveness unless the Holy Spirit draws me into his goodness to receive peace?

If he draws the unsaved, how much more does he draw us?

Scripture

- **John 6:44**

⁴⁴ "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

When you have the peace of God you will:

1. **Not fear:**

Fear is the enemy of Faith

Scripture

- **Judges 6:23-24**

"But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace."

Gideon was fearful of death. But Jehovah-Shalom, (the God of peace), showed up and encouraged him not to fear, that he was going to make it.

If you are at a point in your life where fear is gripping you, be still for a moment and hear God's assurance to you, "Peace! Do not be afraid," says Jehovah-Shalom.

We also see this in John 14:27:

Scripture

- **John 14:27**

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

It is very clear that the peace of this world is NOT the peace of God.

Jesus is saying here for our hearts not to be troubled.

2. Sleep in peace:

Scripture

- **Psalm 4:8**

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Notice the underlying cause of the Psalmist's ability to sleep in peace: he trusted entirely in the Lord's protection — "...for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

It's amazing how many people are restless and worry and don't get rest.

3. Not stumble:

Scripture

- **Psalm 119:165**

"Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble."

We need to fill our hearts with God's word and prayer, and you will automatically be filling your heart with God's peace.

The presence of God and Word of God brings peace and light and no darkness can dwell where there is light.

The opposite of peace is confusion and chaos. When these are evident, then peace is lacking.

We need to access the Spirit, the Word and the Presence of God. Peace will reign, we will be enlightened and our paths will be clear. We will not stumble as we walk in the light of His peace.

4. Have Perfect peace:

Scripture

- **Isaiah 26:3**

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

You can come into this state of perfect peace by doing two things, first we must stay focused on God. Our mind is a battlefield and we must train it to think on Kingdom things.

Fix your mind on Him. Make Him the centre of your thoughts and worship. By doing this, you will cause everything else to dissolve around you and your attention is now on God instead of the chaos.

We also need to have absolute trust in Him to gain this perfect peace. This trust is not in ourselves, but supreme reliance on God, who is ruling and reigning in our hearts.

He is a good Father, and we can trust him completely.

5. Guards your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ:

Scripture

- **Philippians 4:6-7**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Now, as born-again children of God, at peace with Him, we can find great peace in prayer.

We bring our anxieties to Him in prayerful petition, with thanksgiving, and as a result we find our hearts and minds wonderfully filled with the peace of God.

He replaces our anxieties with His peace. Our hearts and minds are guarded and we have nothing to fear...but our minds are centred and fixed on God, who causes all things to work together for our good because we are called according to His purpose.

6. Have access to peace at all times and in every way:

Scripture

- **2 Thessalonians 3:16**

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace Himself grant you His peace (the peace of His Kingdom) at all times and in all ways [under all circumstances and conditions, whatever comes]. The Lord [be] with you all.

This is awesome. We can have the peace of God ruling in our hearts at all times and in every way. The very God of Peace, who lives in us, will give us peace whenever we need it. It is dwelling in us..because He is in us!

Notice it says the peace of His Kingdom. That is why we need to be preachers of the kingdom and understanding kingdom principles which are not based on performance or programs, but based on the Lordship of Jesus Christ because the Kingdom can only have one King.

The kingdom is not a kingdom of competition, the kingdom is a kingdom that should advance and uplift and promote the Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ).

7. The peace of God destroys satan:

Scripture

- **Romans 16:20**

²⁰And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) be with you

- **Romans 16:19-20 (Message)**

¹⁹And so while there has never been any question about your honesty in these matters—I couldn't be more proud of you!—I want you also to be smart, making sure every "good" thing is the real thing. Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus.

This is good news. This is victory.

Satan, and his kingdom cannot stand in the presence of God.

The kingdoms of this world are of no match to the Kingdom that dwells in us.

The victory is sure...and we can have confidence in Gods' Word because He is not a God that He should lie.

When we operate in these principles, we will get the Kingdom results that follow!

We should pursue peace

Scripture

- **1 Tim 2:22**

Shun youthful lusts and flee from them, and aim at and **pursue** righteousness (all that is virtuous and good, right living, conformity to the will of God in thought, word, and deed); [and aim at and **pursue**] faith, love, [and] **peace** (harmony and concord with others) in fellowship with all [Christians], who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart.

Pray for it.

Next week we will look at Joy...