

PEACE

(Foundation Scriptures)

1. "But the fruit of the Spirit is peace." (Galatians 5:22)
2. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)
3. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusted in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)
4. "Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:2)
5. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17)
6. "The Lord will give strength unto his people, the Lord will bless his people with peace." (Psalms 29:11)
7. "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou Lord only makes me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)
8. "Acquaint now yourself with him, and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto you." (Job 22:21)
9. "And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)
10. "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)
11. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)
12. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

WHAT IS PEACE?

Peace (EIRENE) means:

Rest	Security
Order	Quietness
Harmony	Tranquil

PEACE IS...

1. Tranquility in your inner man, your soul, your spirit because of God's presence in your life.
2. That assurance given to us by God, that He is in control and over all, at all times.
3. That quality of God's nature imparted to a believer who is yielded and surrendered to the Holy Spirit's control.
4. Security in the midst of turmoil, the eye in the middle of the storm.
5. That fruit of the Spirit which gives order, harmony and rest to you on the outside. (A quality desperately needed today in a rat race of push and shove to get ahead.)

OUR ONLY SOURCE OF PEACE

....Is God, and God alone!

Many will grasp for rest, tranquility and peace in the following:

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|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Money | 7. Geographic location | 13. Drugs |
| 2. Position | 8. Prestige | 14. Cigarettes |
| 3. Clothes | 9. Sports | 15. Immoral relationships |
| 4. Fancy cars | 10. Pleasures | 16. Material things |
| 5. Houses | 11. Popularity | 17. Jobs |
| 6. Recognition | 12. Man's approval | 18. Etc., etc., etc. |

Yet, the Fruit of Peace can only be ours as we;

- ◆ Allow the Spirit of God to break us, mold us and make us into Christ's image.
- ◆ Open our hearts to what God wants to do in us.
- ◆ Simply allow Jesus to live His life through us.

WHY IS THE PEACE OF GOD SO IMPORTANT?

(Two Paramount Reasons)

1. **God's Peace Is Our Protection** (Philippians 4:7)

"And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep (guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- ◆ The peace of God is pictured as a garrison against the enemy who seeks to invade our heart and disrupt us.
- ◆ The peace we receive from God will keep constant guard and protect us from the anxieties that seek to steal our tranquility.
- ◆ Without this peace our guard will be down, making us vulnerable to the fiery darts of the evil one who attempts to pull our minds in many directions.

2. **God's peace is Our Guide To Know His Will**. (Colossians 3:15)

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

- ◆ God has promised us that His peace would rule, or be present, when we are in His will.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit will bear witness with our spirit as we make decisions in life.
- ◆ If this peace is absent, we should step back and admit, "something is not right".
- ◆ When we are in God's perfect will, we will have His peace ruling in our hearts; His peace will assure us that we are doing what He desires.

HOW DO WE OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN THE PEACE OF GOD?

1. **We Must Have Peace With God** (Romans 5:1)

This comes to us as we accept Christ and His finished work on Calvary to cleanse us from all sin. Guilt and condemnation must first be removed, for there can be no peace without the revelation that our sins (all sin) is forgiven.

2. We Must Have Peace With Man (Matthew 5:23,24; 18:15)
 God gives plain and simple instruction for us to go to someone who has something against us to clear the record. Why? To protect us from ever harboring any ill feelings, which will manifest itself in becoming judgmental, critical, bitter, and slandering. Peace with man results when love keeps no score of wrong doing.

3. We Must Be In The Will Of God (James 4:17)
 The belly of a whale is no place to be (just ask Jonah). It will be impossible to bear the fruit of peace if God desires one thing and we do another.

4. We Must Keep The Cleansing Word Flowing In Us. (Psalm 119:165, Proverbs 3:1,2)
 God promises great peace to those who love the Word; peace will be a by-product of those who do not forget His testimonies.

5. We Must Keep Out The Weeds That Hinder Our Praying (Psalm 66:18)
 Prayer is the only vehicle to transfer our cares to the Lord, and God promises His peace as we (in prayer) give our anxieties to Him. Thus, if sin is present, praying is futile, and when praying is futile, we lose the peace of God.

6. We Must Be Yielded To The Holy Spirit (Ephesian's 4:30)
 Peace is born, produced and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We cannot produce it, but only bear it as we allow God's Spirit to flow through us. Obedience to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit will pave the way for peace to remain in ????????

7. We Must Identify With Jesus (Mark 4:37-40)
 In the midst of a raging storm with His disciples, Jesus is unarmed, calm and asleep on a pillow. Nothing takes Him by surprise, He is never caught unawares. Peace comes to me when I focus on the One who knows where I am, why I am there, how long I will be there and what good will result. We must always remember, "He knows the way that I take, and when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)

"Now the God of peace be with you all, amen." (Romans 15:33)