
THE TRUTH HERALD

Walking in the Peace of God

*Peace is not
the absence of trouble.
Peace is the
presence of God.
Now and into eternity ...*

1 - For God is not a God of disorder but of peace ... (Romans 16:20a) ... And He will be called Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) ... But the fruit of the Spirit is ... peace (Gal 5:22) ... Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (Matt 5:9)

Peace is a fundamental characteristic of God Almighty, His Kingdom, and His children. The Bible tells us that God is the God of Peace. Christ Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Peace. And the children of God are princes and princesses of Peace. This is part of their birthright as the sons and daughters of God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt 5:9).

2 - Be anxious for nothing ... (Phil 4:6)

While we know the truth about our peaceful nature as God's children, and are aware that we are to practice peace as children of God, we are human and may still have anxieties about different things in our lives. If one took a survey to find out what members of the Body of Christ worry about, one may find different people have different anxieties -- middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students and professional workers alike may worry about what their peers think about them, for example; some may worry about finances; yet others may have concerns about health ... the list goes on. The Bible however tells us explicitly to be anxious for nothing (Phil 4:6). Anxiety is characterized by uneasiness of mind usually over an impending or anticipated ill (Merriam-Webster). Just as fear and faith do

not go together, anxiety and peace do not go together. Fear leads to anxiety; faith in God leads to peace.

3 - I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:27)

Faith, trust in God to take care of you and all your needs, not only on earth but beyond into eternity, is the basis of the peace that comes from God, i.e., what the Bible calls the *Peace of God* -- contrasted with worldly peace. The Oxford English Dictionary defines peace as freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility; freedom from or the cessation of war and violence. In contrast, the Bible tells us that the Peace of God surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7). The Peace of God is a gift (John 14:27) that does not depend on external circumstances. It is peace of mind and heart independent of external circumstances. Like God's gift of salvation, God's gift of peace of mind and heart must also be *accepted* and *applied* in our lives. Practicing of the Peace of God includes not being anxious (Phil 4:6), not being troubled and not being afraid (John 14:27). Just as fear is at the root of anxiety, faith in God is at the root of the peace of God. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebr. 1:11).

4 - Search for peace and work to maintain it. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. (Psalm 34:10) ... Seek ye first the Kingdom of God ... (Matt 6:33a)

How do we accept God's gift of peace of mind and heart and practice it more in our daily lives? *Have faith in God.* This is the point of departure for living in the peace of God. *Be still, and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10a, KJV). *Cease striving and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10a, NASB). *Trust in the LORD* with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3: 5,6). *Seek the Kingdom of God* above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need (Matthew 6:33). The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 11:17).

5 - Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for what he has done. (Phil 4:6-7)

Turn your worries into prayers with thanksgiving for what God has already done.

6 - And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts ... (Phil 4:8)

Fix your thoughts on the things of God: "Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise (Phil 4:8). Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose *mind is stayed* on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee (Isa. 26:3). Let's remember that the Holy Spirit is our helper. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give us grace and peace (1 Cor 1:3). Amen.