

Peace message 2021

Introduction

It is so wonderful to have peace in our lives that can't be shaken in times of trouble. It is sure needed in the times in which we live. We see everyday what happens to people when they don't have peace. The news reflects this daily. Christ came to give unshakeable peace but sadly many won't ask Him for it. Today we want to share about it and encourage everyone to ask God for it.

John 14:27 New International Version (NIV)

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.

Ephesians 2:13-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,

Luke 2:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Definition

Worldly sense

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups.

1 : a state of tranquility or quiet: such as a: freedom from civil disturbance ,**Peace** and order were finally restored in the town. b : a state

of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom a breach of the **peace**. It can mean one that is enforced on people or done voluntarily.

Godly sense

This is finding the peace that the ultimate peacemaker wants to bring to each of us. It is a peace that can be present even in the middle of trouble. This is the one we want to focus on today.

In **Matt 6:9-13**, we read in the Lord's Prayer that it is God's desire that His will would be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Peace is certainly reigning in Heaven. God's will is, for man to be at peace with Him. Then peace with each other. Inner peace must happen before outer peace can last. Real peace starts and ends with God. Even the little taste of worldly peace that the world gets, has God's flavouring it too because people have to want to lay down weapons to see any form of peace happen-that would indicate people caring for others. This means they have been influenced by God.

The war that needs peace

There is a war going on all the time in the lives of people. It is the flesh vs the Spirit of God. Ever since man sinned and brought judgement on himself from the error of his way rejecting God, there has been a war for his soul with the Lord wanting to redeem him back to Himself and the Devil not wanting to let go of the power over man's destiny which to the Devil now is destruction.

Romans 8:6

The **mind** governed by the flesh is death, but the **mind** governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:7

The **mind** governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Romans 8:8

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

The flesh wars with the Spirit. Good with evil. He wants us reconciled to Himself. Satan wants to keep making war so to make our end one of destruction. Jesus brings Goodwill to all mankind. Gods heart was revealed to man. It was one of peace that would last and where blessing and hope would result.

Micah 3:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

“As for the prophets
who lead my people astray,
they proclaim ‘peace’
if they have something to eat,
but prepare to wage war against anyone
who refuses to feed them.

Our question today is?

Will you keep fighting God’s drawing you to Himself? God wants to make peace with us and He is the only one who can bring it to us.

Are there things in our lives God wants gone but that we are fighting him on by wanting to keep them? Make peace with Him, because that is the only way.

As Christians, we are to follow Jesus in everything but so often we say no to the Lord and disobey His wishes and heart desires. That is sin in God’s books. Jesus describes the process as a heart issue. If you love me, you will do as I say. Why? Because when we get to know the heart of God, then our heart will be like His and we will do as He wants.

Peace with God means surrender

When we accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we surrendered to Jesus initially as our Saviour. As we walk with Christ and have our lives transformed day to day (sanctification), our will becomes more and more surrendered to Him. Surrender is a daily matter that needs to be continually initiated. Surrender means we don’t allow our heart to determine the standard of Christian life we should have. We openly desire the walk Christ wants for us and follow that. Our will must surrender to the Lordship of Christ for us

to gain perfect peace. He is King and Lord. As Christians, there should never be a question of whether we will honour Jesus' desires or not. It should be automatic. When we surrender to Jesus, we will have peace. If not, then we won't.

Who is stronger, you or Him? Who is more powerful? Who is wiser? Who is more loving? Who is more giving? Who is perfect? Who has more? Who can heal? Who can cleanse from sin? I think God wins this argument every time.

Peace is everywhere in heaven where God dwells. He wants us to have it here on this earth too. He wants to make a real show of how bad the devil is and reveal to us all how good He is. The comparison needs to be seen.

How will you know if you have surrendered and are in a position to receive this peace?

Romans 8:5

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

If your life has been given over to Jesus and you have purposed now in your heart to serve Him, then you are in that position to receive it. It is a powerful place to be. It is a place where we just simply declare from our heart, Father I want to follow you in everything, what would you have me do. It is surrendering our will so that whatever He wants us to do, we do it. NO MATTER WHAT.

NO PEACE WITHOUT SURRENDER TO GOD.

Psalm 119:165 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law,
and nothing can make them stumble.

Isaiah 26:3 New International Version (NIV)

³ You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.

Peace means we keep our lives cleansed

When we have difficulty having peace, we need to ask ourselves, “do we have some sin harbouring in our hearts that needs to be removed?” Jesus came to forgive sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but if we harbour it, it remains and will block peace from coming to our lives. Ask for forgiveness and receive peace.

Will you make your peace with him?

Getting peace in your life is a choice. God will bring peace to you if you surrender. It is time to stop fighting what the loving Lord of heaven wants for us and then receive the desires and blessings He wants to give. Salvation, Heaven, hope, love, joy, peace, life eternal, protection, healing, provision, family etc are all there for us when we surrender to Him.

John 16:33 [Full Chapter]

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Conclusion

Peace. Do you have peace, or have you been just trying to get by without it? Have you been trying to use worldly peace to substitute for real lasting God-given peace? We all need Peace. If we didn't need it, Jesus would not have come to give it. He knows everything we need, and He came to give it all. The war will not cease just because we try to ignore the battle that wages. If you are a believer in Jesus, the war for you and I is one of obedience to God's call into our lives to follow and to testify. If we keep saying no or try to ignore Him, it will continue to fester. NO PEACE. For the non-believer, the war for you is one of surrender to the Saviour. The Devil will not give you up without a fight, but you can put an end to this one by surrendering to Jesus and seeing the glorious result of knowing Jesus as your Saviour.

Either way, the battle for this peace will not finish without a move of action on our part towards the Lord Jesus. He wants you and will spare no effort to redeem you back to Him. The Devil does not ever want that to happen.

Do we want peace? If you do then the day of decision lies before you. As a Christian decide today that no matter what, you will follow the Lord Jesus in everything and surrender to His will not yours. This will bring peace. As a

non-Christian, decide today to surrender to the amazing incredible Saviour and allow Him to transform your life into a new creation and receive the new life He offers. Peace will arrive.

The bottom line is that Jesus is the author of peace and the only way any of us with gain peace is encountering Him and following Him. Do it today.

Amen.