

Prince of Peace

I have been thinking a lot about what peace is lately. I have observed the enemy of God and men working on people to destroy this essential fruit of our faith. Peace will be conspicuous in heaven standing in stark contrast to all we go through here in our mortal lives. Sin was what interrupted the tranquility which our Creator intended for us instead of the sorrow, suffering and conflict we see daily.

Jesus dealt with sin once for all, but many of us do not “put into place” in our lives what He has done. Why? Maybe we don’t see the spiritual side enough to believe that Jesus has ultimately restored all from the effects of what the enemy has done.

Those to be called *overcomers* go beyond what they can see in the here and now. They have been through things. They see the spiritual side. They are able to discern the enemy’s patterns in what he does to our brothers and sisters and to people in general. We see the master of destruction working in and on others. God’s plan for His people has always been, as He said it, **“I know the plans I have for you”—this is the Lord’s declaration —“plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.** (From Jeremiah 29:11 CSB -- Some versions translate *well-being* as *peace*, some translate *disaster* as *harm*, or *evil*.)

Sin hurts—Always! That is the purpose of temptation used by the demonic. In the past, Doug has referred to satan as the “hurt whisperer.” It is an appropriate call. I believe it is the enemy’s #1 tactic to divert us from the Lord’s plans for us. Whispers of hurt cause us to make foolish decisions; they can make us suspicious or judgmental; they prepare ground for unforgiveness, bitterness, retaliation, etc. **Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is a must!** (See 2 Corinthians 10:5) The battle is won (or lost) in the mind.

Let’s look at *peace* from the mouth of God:

“Watch the blameless and observe the upright, for the person of peace will have a future.” (Psalm 37:37 CSB)

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful. (John 14:27 CSB)

Peace in the first verse above is the Hebrew word *shalom* (*Strongs # H7965*). It has many possible translations, just a few are: safety, health, prosperity, favor, well-being, ease, completeness, and peace.

Peace in the second verse above is the Greek word *eirēnēn* (*Strong’s # G1515*), meaning: one, peace, quietness, rest.

Probably from a primary verb *eiro* (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity -- one, peace, quietness, rest, + set at one again.



Biblehub.com enlightens further: “1515 *eirēnē* (from *eirō*, "to join, tie together into a whole") – properly, *wholeness*, i.e. when all essential parts are joined together; *peace* (God's gift of *wholeness*).

“Prince of Peace” is one of the names Isaiah foretold that Messiah would be called. (Isaiah 9:6)

A quick overview of some of my thoughts about peace before I began to write:

- God is the source of peace;
- Peace is a gift Christ gives us;
- Peace is a fruit of the Spirit;
- We are to mature and be completed in peace;
- Peace is to rule in our hearts.

Therefore, the enemy works against it in our minds and through our bodies with all that opposes what peace is.

Satan’s work is to tear down everything the Lord wants built up, and to build up everything the Lord wants torn down.

We should be able to test the source of the thoughts in our mind by what those thoughts are doing to us. Are the thoughts crushing, wounding, and sucking the life out of us. In this case, they will defeat us, but only as long as we allow such to go on. If we allow these thoughts, they will put us into an illusionary hell of our own making. Demons are tormentors—tools used by satan. Resist!—“**Submit to God, and resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**” (See James 4:7) He couldn’t flee from us if he were not there to begin with. Think about it! Those with discernment may have to intercede for some brothers and sisters until they are able to stand on their own as they learn the word that will build their faith to depend on the One who is true.

Have you heard of enablers? You probably have in a negative sense. This is the person who encourages or enables self-destructive behavior in someone else. An enabler is by definition *someone or something that makes something possible*. **Be an enabler of acts of the Holy Spirit!** How? One simple way is by praying The Lord’s Prayer—**and meaning it!**

“Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6 :9-13 CSB)

We, as Christians, are those who desire to honor our Father’s holy name. We long to see His kingdom and His will established. We believe to receive when we ask for daily bread **for spirit, soul and body!** We meet the conditions for forgiveness. We expect deliverance from evil in all of its forms and agendas, from all of its perpetrating persons—any within us or outside us. At least, I hope we are! I hope we do!

Peace was meant for us from creation. Sin got in its way. Christ through His blood settled it **once for all!**

The enemy works on us through everything that is the opposite of peace—in our minds tormentors use all of those negative emotions like feelings of anxiety, fear, and rejection; and in our bodies demons use pain, sickness, weariness, and *disease*, etc. We have the power in Jesus' name to bind what needs binding, and loose what needs loosing. Peace is both a gift from Christ, as referenced in John 14:27, and it is also a calling, **“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.”** (Colossians 3:15 NLT)

The Christian life is an upward journey. The enemy uses anything he can to try to get us to go backward or downward, and he always causes loss or hurt in the long run if we do. I remember a challenging uphill climb my son and I had attempted once before, but didn't complete. We resolved to give it another try, so we could see the waterfall atop the four-mile hike. Going upward was hard. We made it, but I didn't expect what awaited the downward hike. Going back was quicker, but for me was much more painful; it tortured my knees. Satan would like us to think going backward or downward is easier; it *feels* easier, but at the end of this deception in the long run there is hurt and pain.

In addition to peace, the love of God has presented us with many gifts and promises. Do we know them? Will we receive them? Will we believe them? Do we believe Him? If we do, that is faith.

**“May the Lord bless you and protect you;
may the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
may the Lord look with favor on you
and give you peace.”** (Numbers 6:24-26 CSB)

This is the desire of the Prince of Peace for you.