

Week of June 14, 2009
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Monday

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

In the Hebrew language the word SHALOM means 'peace'. But it is not simply the absence of conflict or of war. Instead, SHALOM carries the idea of total peace of the soul. It is God's peace, wholeness of life, the absence of conflict without and within. SHALOM became the greeting of the Hebrew people, a spoken blessing of peace. So God offers to believers SHALOM—peace: fullness of life, grace, and the assurance of God's presence and favor. Such is the fruit of a Spirit-filled life.

Tuesday

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...

Like 'agape' love and Spirit-filled joy, God's peace is not something that can be worked up nor is it miraculously given (as in 'zapped' upon you). Instead this fruit of the Spirit is worked within you as you purposely, intentionally walk under the Lordship of Jesus. Peace comes as a result of your surrender to His purposes, and as you rest in His providence. Peace comes as you obey His word, trusting Him enough to be obedient in every area of your life. He is the source of peace that will grow on the branch of your obedience.

Wednesday

Matt. 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

There is a direct correlation between our trust in Jesus' plan, His providence, and His power; and our experience of peace. Indeed, our lack of inward peace comes from our lack of trust in God's provision for ourselves or others (children, spouse, etc). If you believe that God loves you, if you believe He provides for you, if you believe that He never abandons you or forsakes you, then the outcome is peace. If you doubt His goodness, His faithfulness, His power, or His care then the outcome is turmoil, worry, and despair. Faith in God is not only about eternal salvation, it is about your daily walk; it is about peace. As the father in Mark 9:24 said, "Lord I believe. Help my unbelief."

Thursday

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Neither inward peace nor peace with others is possible without first having peace with God. In fact the lack of peace with God is the source of our warring with one another. Peace with God is gained through a saving relationship with Jesus. When we give ourselves to Him in faith, our sins are forgiven and we are transferred from the enemy's army and made to be the King's children. This peace with God brings inward peace as we continue to walk in obedience. Pass the peace of Jesus.

Friday

Rom. 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another..

Spirit-filled men and women are people of peace. At peace with God and with others they pursue the things which bring peace to their church and their home. In faith—having no need for worry and despair—they are free to encourage others toward peace with God and one another. God calls deacons, pastors, and members of the church to be Spirit-filled peacemakers. It is a role which is listed over and over in the scriptures, a role that leads to the building of the Kingdom and power in witness. Reflect on how often God's word admonishes peace. In the Corinthian church God called for peace rather than personal victory (1 Cor. 6:7).