

## **7 Ways to Peace**

December 29, 2019

### **John 14:27 ESV**

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

### **THE CROSS OF JESUS**

*There is no peace without reconciliation with God, because everything is wrong in a life that is not right with God.*

*Without the reconciliation provided by Jesus, you are God's enemy waiting for His wrath and judgment to fall.*

### **Romans 5:1-2 ESV**

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

### **REPENTANCE**

*Without experiencing God's forgiveness through the confession of your sins, you will stay under the suffocating darkness of guilt and damnation.*

### **Psalm 32:3-5 ESV**

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

### **THE LOVE OF GOD**

*So much of our inner torment, fear and guilt has one source - not knowing the love God has for us.*

*No one can convince you that God loves you unconditionally just as you are. You will only be convinced alone with God one-on-one.*

*God's love for you does not depend on who you are, but on Who He is.*

### **1 John 4:16-18 ESV**

16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

*John 17:23 ESV*

*23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

*"I believe this is the greatest battle that a Christian has. It's to maintain this imprint in the soul that God loves me. There are times I fail, I do things that grieve the Holy Spirit, but He loves me. I've come to examine my own heart on this many times, after preaching it to so many people, to go to prisons, for example and preach about the love of God and so seldom feel loved by God." —David Wilkerson*

## **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**

*Although life is out of our control, it is never out of God's control.*

*Matthew 10:29-31 ESV*

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

*Romans 8:28 ESV*

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

*Psalms 37:23-25 NASB*

23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.

## **PRAYER**

*Prayer is releasing the burden of anxiety to the One you are convinced you can trust.*

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7-8 ESV

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

2 Timothy 1:12 NASB

12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

## **THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

*The invisible presence of God is an impenetrable fortress that surrounds and protects us from evil and harm.*

Psalms 91:1-10 ESV

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place-- the Most High, who is my refuge--

10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

*"You can kill us, but you cannot hurt us." —Justin Martyr*

Matthew 10:28 ESV

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

## **DISCIPLINED MIND**

*The definition of "care" (merimna) in the NT is anxiety by being distracted and drawn in different directions.*

2 Peter 2:7-8 ESV

7 ...he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard)...

Hebrews 12:2 NASB

2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

fixing our eyes (*aphoraō* - to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on one thing)

Isaiah 26:3-4 ESV

3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Proverbs 3:1-2 ESV

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,

2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

Psalms 119:165 ESV

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