

7 Ways to Peace Pt. 3

January 12, 2020

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.”

(1) 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.

(2) 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

(3) 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.

"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

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.

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.

(4) GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

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

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

Proverbs 16:4

4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Proverbs 16:33

33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Daniel 4:34-35 ESV

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

- ***You will never know peace in the worst of storms until the conviction of God's sovereignty is stronger and more certain than the surrounding circumstances.***

Matthew 8:24-26 ESV

24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.

25 And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

- **The less we understand, the less we should try. Our mind will sabotage our faith and breed confusion, doubt and discouragement.**

Proverbs 28:26

26 Whoever trusts in his own mind (leb - mind, heart, understanding) is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

Proverbs 3:5-7

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

- **In the midst of the storm:**

- **meditate and pray on God's sovereignty**

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- **disengage as much as possible from busyness, questioning and contention (they only distract and discourage).**

Luke 5:15-16 ESV

15 But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities.

16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

- **The depth and degree of God's involvement in your life.**

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 (arithmeō - to enumerate, number, ordered list).

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

- No one else will ever be closer, know you more intimately and never leave you, like Jesus.

- **What you gain in what you lose is eternally greater. So much so, what you lose is as dung by comparison.**

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.

Philippians 3:4-8 ESV

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

- **God's power is made perfect in weakness.**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- **Eternal treasures for temporal loss.**

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **God sets the boundaries of every trial and storm.**

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.

- *Not only does God throttle the temptations so they can never overcome you, but He Himself, is your escape.*
- *It is not your self-discipline nor your psychological gimmicks that deliver you from temptation, but your communion with Him. His Person and His presence is your escape. The more you're tempted, the more closely you must cling to Him.*
- ***Prayer, God Himself, is your only escape, not gimmicks.***

Matthew 26:36-41 ESV

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?"

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- ***Jesus is never more present than in the fire and storm.***

Hebrews 2:18 ESV

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help (boētheō - to run to the cry) those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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.