

## 7 Ways to Peace (Overview)

January 26, 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

- *The world’s peace is circumstantial peace: superficial and fleeting.*
- *The peace that Jesus gives is relational and eternal, far surpassing the circumstances of this temporal life.*
- *Peace starts at the Cross of Calvary, and without the Cross there is no peace.*
- *Everything is wrong with a life that is not right with God, Who is the Author and Finisher, the Beginning and the End, the Creator and the Judge of every human life.*
- *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 & CONFESSION OF SIN

- *Without experiencing God's forgiveness through the confession of your sins, you will stay under the suffocating darkness of guilt and damnation.*
- *How do you live with sins committed that cannot be changed, erased or done over?*
- *The confession of sin is far more than a means to an end. The spiritual discipline of confronting your sin, owning your sin and presenting your sin to a Holy Judge, your Heavenly Father, brings a release and cleansing that is impossible by any other means.*

#### Hosea 14:1-7 ESV

1 *Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.*  
2 *Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips.*  
3 *Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."*  
4 *I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.*  
5 *I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;*  
6 *his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon.*  
7 *They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.*

#### 1 John 1:9 ESV

9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### (3) THE LOVE OF GOD

- *God's love for you does not depend on who you are, but on Who He is. To stop loving you would mean He would have to stop being Who He is.*
- *So much of our inner torment, fear and guilt has one source - not knowing God's unlimited and unconditional love for us, individually and uniquely.*
- *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.*

*Luke 22:31-34 ESV*

*31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,  
32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."*

*33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."*

*34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."*

*Luke 22:61-62 ESV*

*61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."*

*62 And he went out and wept bitterly.*

*Mark 16:6-7 ESV*

*6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.*

*7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."*

*1 John 4:17-18 ESV*

*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

- *Knowing the absolute control and depth of detail in God's sovereignty and involvement in our lives brings a peace that the world cannot imagine.*

*Matthew 8:24 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.*

*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.

Psalm 37:23-24 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.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

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.

## (5) PRAYER

- *Prayer is releasing the burden of anxiety to the One you are convinced you can trust (a literal transfer).*
- *Prayer is where God's work is accomplished, not in human wisdom, ability, methods, or effort.*
- *God requires our faith and our availability, but the work, the results and the glory belong to God alone.*

*"They that know God will put their trust in Him. This is most natural. You do not put your trust in one whom you do not know; and the great trouble is that so few know God... We must know God, if He is to be anything to us when we most need Him."*

—Margaret Bottome, *Crumbs from the Kings Table*, 1888

1 Peter 5:7 ESV

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

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.

2 Chronicles 20:13-17 ESV

13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.

16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."

John 6:28-29 ESV

28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

## (6) THE PRESENCE OF GOD

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

*John 15:4 ESV*

4 Abide in me, and I in you.

*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."

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.

*Acts 16:22-26 ESV*

22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.

23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.

24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

## (7) A DISCIPLINED MIND

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

*2 Peter 2:7-9 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);

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment.

*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.

*Isaiah 26:3 ESV*

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