

"LIVING PEACEFULLY IN A TROUBLED WORLD"

The Power To Change Your Life, Part 5

April 10th, 2011

Galatians 5:22 (NIV) "The fruit of the Spirit is...peace..."

Most people experience more stress than peace

Proverbs 14:30 (NIV) "A heart of peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones."

3 Kinds Of Peace In The Bible

1. Spiritual peace – peace with God

Romans 5:1 (NIV) "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

You must have peace with God before you can have any other kind of _____

2. Emotional peace – peace of God

Emotional peace is an internal sense of well being and order

Colossians 3:15 (NIV) "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since...you were called to peace."

3. Relational peace – peace with others

Romans 12:18 (NIV) "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

For the most part our biggest problems are people problems

Jesus promised Christians God's peace

John 14:27 (Ph) "I leave behind with you – peace; I give you My own peace and My gift is nothing like the peace of this world. You must not be distressed and you must not be daunted."

- Christ's peace is a gift
- Christ's peace is different from what the world gives
- God's peace is not related to circumstances

5 Keys To Acquiring God's Perfect Peace

1. Obey God's principles – do what the Bible says

Psalms 119:165,167 (NIV) "Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble...I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly."

God's peace comes when we live in harmony with God

2. Accept God's pardon - we must forgive ourselves

Guilt is the #1 destroyer of peace for most people

Only God can give a clear conscience

Micah 7:18 (NIV) "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgressions...You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy."

1 John 1:9 (NIV) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins."

3. Focus on God's presence

Isaiah 26:3 (KJ) "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusted in You."

You have a choice to focus on your problems or God who holds the solution

What you concentrate on determines your level of personal peace

Tension / stress is an internal warning light that you have taken your eyes off of God and are focusing on your circumstances.

Psalm 46:1 & 10 (NIV) "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble...Be still, and know that I am God."

4. Trust God's purpose

Proverbs 3:5,6 (NAS) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

You don't have to understand "why" or "how" or "when" God does what He does, but in order to experience His peace, You must trust Him

We must acknowledge that God is in control, and that He doesn't make mistakes

Philippians 4:12,13 (NIV) "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

5. Ask for God's peace

Philippians 4:6,7 (GN) "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking Him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus."

Notice the order: first prayer; then peace

Turn your cares into prayers

1 Peter 5:7 (GN) "Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you."

You'll never experience true or lasting peace until Christ is in charge of your life
John 14:1 (NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me."

Serenity Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

My Next Step Today

- I am asking Christ to help me acquire God's peace by (check the actions which apply to you):
 - obeying what God has shown me in Scripture
 - forgiving myself
 - focusing on God's presence in my life
 - trusting in God's purpose for my life
 - asking for God's peace in my life
- I will help with the church clean-up day on Sun, April 17th after 2nd service
- I/we plan on attending the Meet the Pastors Meal on Sunday, May 29th
- I will memorize Galatians 5:22,23