

"What is Peace?"



"When we create peace,
and harmony, and
balance in our minds, we
will find it in our Lives."

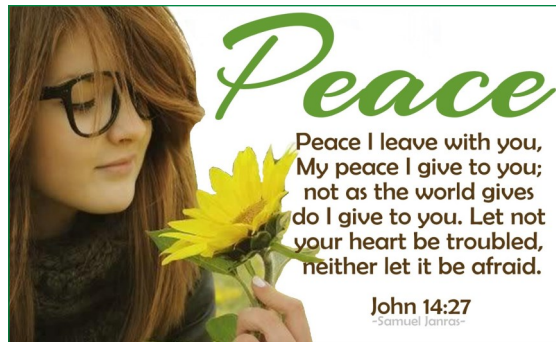
Peace

"Fruit of the Spirit and more. . ."

*"These things I have spoken unto
you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer; I have
overcome the world."*

John 16:33

The words shown above from John 16:33 were spoken by Christ as He was trying to tell His disciples that He was going to be leaving this world and be returning to His Heavenly Father, but they were confused. They were going to have pain and suffering and difficult times, but that was o.k.! Don't worry about it. Be optimistic and joyful because Christ had come to overcome the world and so they had nothing to fear. That can be very confusing.



Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives
do I give to you. Let not
your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27
-Samuel Johnson-

We all have pain and suffering at some time, but that is o.k. We all know that someday we will be taken from this world as we know it. But we aren't supposed to worry about it. We are to praise the Lord and be happy. We can have peace if we have Christ in our hearts and can understand why we are having problems, but we can't always understand any more than the disciples could understand.

A brief study of the etymology of the word "peace" says the English word came into use in various personal greetings and a translation of the Hebrew word "shalom" which has so many meanings. A beautiful song "Shalom" from the musical MILK AND HONEY talks about the various meanings of "Shalom." Some of the lyrics say:

*"Shalom, Shalom, You'll find Shalom
The nicest greeting you know;
It means bonjour, salud, and skoal
And twice as much as hello.
It means a million lovely things,
Like peace be yours,
Welcome home. And even when you
say goodbye, If your voice has
"I don't want to go" in it,
Say goodbye with a little "hello" in it,
And say goodbye with Shalom."*

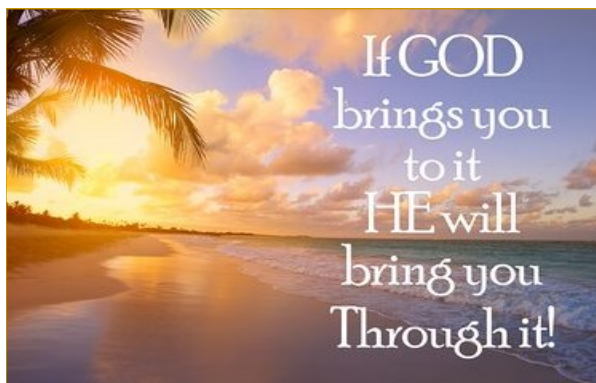
We have a hard time knowing what peace really means. The definitions are so varied and we tend to use it very loosely from personal meanings to world peace. I have no idea how to achieve world peace. As we study the Old Testament, we know that they never seemed to have peace. Even with Christ coming to this earth there was so much unrest that measures had to be taken to secure His growing up. Then, when He was at the height of His ministry, the "authorities" wanted to get rid of Him and so He was crucified. Some situations we can control. Others we cannot.

Is peace just a "pie in the sky" type of word? We know something of the splendor and majesty of Christ. We need to know this peace and should try to live each day for Christ. We know something of the joy and peace which are characteristic of Christ. But we have to live it and that is hard. Living involves the way we fill out the tax



form, the way we tip a waitress, it can be the way we think about our neighbor, the way we treat someone who needs a little attention. It can be our obligation to pray and ask God to be with us every day. We need to praise Him as well as seek His kindness and peace. Probably the best way we can understand this love and peace is by getting to know God. In 1956 there was a wonderful musical called THE KING AND I. One song entitled "Getting to Know You" talks about how once we know someone we feel comfortable with that person and know how to talk with him/her. That's the way it has to be for us to have that peace with God. Once we know Him as our personal Savior and trust in Him we can talk with Him. Through these conversations, we can achieve peace. We need to make this a daily routine, but it is so easy to stray when things are going well.

Jobs are no longer as secure as they used to be. We don't know when our job will be in danger. What do we do if we lose all hospitalization and other benefits? Our job can be gone in a flash. With all of this kind of delicate living we are forced to deal with on a daily basis, it is very easy to lose our sense of peace, especially our peace in the Lord that we cannot see.



There is a peace in knowing that God is in charge on this earth regardless of the situation. We know that God promises that He has a plan for each of us. Sometimes we don't like His plan. Sometimes we think we could do it better. We aren't eager to have suffering and loss. There is a peace in knowing that someday we will be with Christ in Heaven, but we know this earth and we have become adjusted to it. We want the good times to stay. We can control how we accept certain situations and how we let things affect us. Probably the best way to achieve peace in many circumstances is through prayer. Prayer can bring us an inner peace. In Philippians 4:7 we read *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* KJV. Eugene Peterson puts it into today's language *"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."* THE MESSAGE



Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, through Your love, forgiveness and grace You have shown us the way of life. Yet, we doubt. We like to think we can handle it alone. We confess that we are too anxious and don't always take things to You in prayer. Have mercy on us dear Lord and teach us to talk with You every day and learn something of the peace that is available to each of us. Amen

1. What is peace?
2. Should we feel guilty that we don't always show our peace to those around us?
3. How can we achieve peace for our lives?
4. How can we help others to know God's peace?

© rgscripts

info@rgscripts.com

Peace.

It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

— UNKNOWN AUTHOR

