

The Peace of God!

Psalms 4 Romans 8:31-39 John 14:1-6

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You may recognize the word *Shalom*, it's the Old Testament Hebrew word for **peace**. Its counterpart in the New Testament Greek is the basis of the English name *Irene*, which means **peace**.

Shalom. Irene. Peace. It is a gift of salvation that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Peace with God leads to peace in your life.*

PEACE WITH GOD

Peace with God is something that we need desperately, because our sin has created a hostile relationship with God. Your sin has separated you from God; a sure sign of that separation is a guilty conscience. Guilt means that you have broken God's 10 Commandments; guilt is your inner emergency warning signal; it's like sirens blaring and red lights flashing in your soul. A guilty conscience tells you that you are out of relationship with your Creator. Guilt is meant to crush you and show you that you have broken the relationship with God. Guilt is a terrible thing; but it is meant to be only short term.

Guilt is meant to lead you to immediate repentance; to turn you from your sin, to stop your rebellion, to halt your immorality! It leads you to confess your sin to God and to believe that you are forgiven because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only Jesus can remove your sin and guilt from you. Only Jesus can forgive your sins, cleanse your conscience, and give you peace with God. There is no work you can do to soothe a guilty conscience; only Jesus' sacrifice on the cross can reconcile you to God the Father. Only the blood of Christ can cover over the guilt of your sin. Only the death of the Son of God can pay the penalty for your sin. Only Jesus can give you true and lasting peace. That is why Jesus came

into the world; that is why He suffered and died: so that you have *peace with God* rather than a guilty conscience.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ Romans 5:1

There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

In Christ, your sins are removed from you; they are paid for; and God the Father promises to *never ever remember* them again.

Because of Christ, you have a perfectly restored relationship with God the Father. He is **not** an angry judge ready to condemn you! He is a loving, caring, and merciful Father in Heaven. Because of Jesus, God the Father promises to *never ever remember* your sin again.

Because of Jesus you have *Peace with God*. There is no more hostility; there is no more separation; there is no more guilt --> you are forgiven, and you have *Peace with God*. *Peace* is the condition when all is well between God and you through Jesus Christ.

Peace with God then leads to peace in your life¹, and even peace at your death².

PEACE IN LIFE

Our daily lives can be ransacked with all kinds of problems, pain, and suffering; troubles can appear out of nowhere; our health can turn on a dime; relationships can go sideways; finances can change quickly; hardships can take many forms. It is important to remember that *Peace* in the Bible is **NOT** the absence of problems,

¹ One area where you see Peace is within yourself. Peace with God means that you have peace with yourself. There are many voices that try to condemn you for one thing or another – even your own voice and conscience. “You are not good enough ...” or “remember when you did ...” or “you are such a failure ...”. In Christ, those are quieted. God sees you as clothed in Christ: perfect, holy and righteous. In addition, all your sin, failures, guilt was removed from you and placed on Christ. You are forgiven. Be sure to let the Peace of Christ cover over any condemnation you may be feeling! You have been set free from condemnation to live your life glorifying God, loving others, and growing in faith!

² *The order of these things is very important.* Christ reconciles us with God the Father through His life, death, and resurrection; and then, through faith in Christ, we begin to live with peace in our everyday life. Peace in daily life only happens because we are first reconciled to God through Christ. Peace in daily life is part of our sanctification; our holy life and Christian living. The peace we have from God through Christ flows into our daily lives and is seen as a “fruit of the Holy Spirit.” This peace is a great blessing, as it gives us assurance and confidence in life, in suffering, in relationships, at death, and at the final judgment.

pain, hardships, or suffering, but rather peace is **the confidence that God is greater** than your problems, pain and suffering, and that through it all, you are OK.

Jesus said, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. **But take heart; I have overcome the world.**" John 16:33

Peace in your everyday life is seen as you trust in God's promises, and you believe He is speaking the truth to you in His Word. You have a confidence in God's care for you; that you belong to Him, He loves you, and He is at work in all things. You know that God is present and His power is at work in your life. Nothing ever happens to you by chance;

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul;
your best, your heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

there are no accidents; nothing catches God the Father by surprise. If you are facing problems, pain, or suffering, you can rest assured that God is at work for your good and well-being through those things. That's His promise, and peace comes from trusting in God and His promises. **Peace** in the Bible is **NOT** the absence of problems, pain, hardships, or suffering, but rather peace **IS the confidence that God is greater** than your problems, pain and suffering, and that through it all, you are OK because God loves you and is at work in your life.

Peace is the conviction that God loves you and is at work in your life; it's the assurance of God the Father's watchfulness over you. Peace allows you to live with a calm spirit each day; having a Christ-centered, Scripture-based stability in your mind, spirit and life. Peace is having a biblical, godly understanding of your own life. You do not live in fear, worry, and panic! You have peace in God and His promises in all things!

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

You will keep in **perfect peace** those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.** John 14:27

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, a gift from Christ, and a blessing from you Heavenly Father! Peace is trusting in God's promises, living with a calm spirit, and being assured of God's love, care, and watchfulness over you!

Peace in the Bible is **NOT** the absence of problems, pain, hardships, or suffering, but rather peace **IS** *the confidence that God is greater* than your problems, pain and suffering, and that through it all, you are OK because God loves you and is at work in your life.

PEACE AT DEATH

Not only do you have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ because of His death, burial and resurrection; and not only do you have peace in your life, even in the midst of problems, pain, and suffering; but you also have peace at the time of death.

Death is a terrible enemy that comes into our lives because of sin. But Jesus has overcome death by His resurrection from the dead, and has already given you eternal life in your Baptism. The sting of death has been removed; you will survive death, you will escape the final judgment, and you will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven with a glorified body. You have *hope*: the *absolutely certain faith* in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting! Therefore you have peace even at the time of death. That *hope* is what Jesus was talking about in John 14 when He said:

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. John 14:1-3

Peace is a great blessing of salvation that is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you struggle with guilt, worry, or fear, or if death and dying frightens you, then spend time with the promises of God³. That is how the Holy Spirit works to give you

³ In order to learn the promises of God, you must spend time in the Word of God. One way to sink the promises of God deep into your heart is to memorize them. Memorization is an excellent spiritual discipline that puts the promises of God in your heart and gives you immediate access to them. Another way to deepen your trust in God's promises is to pray God's promises; talk to God about His promises and ask Him to apply them to your life. As you meditate on God's promises and think about your life, your faith strengthens and your fears fade: **you have peace!**

peace; peace with God, peace in your life, and even peace at death. There is no other way! Spend time with the promises of God!

If you need help finding promises that apply to your life, talk to me or any of the church staff and we will be able to help you. God's promises will meet your needs, strengthen your faith, and give you peace!

Shalom. Irene. Peace. It is a gift of salvation that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Today may the Good Lord give you that assurance, confidence and faith through His Word so that you have *Peace with God; and that peace with God will lead to peace in your life and even peace at death.* Amen!