

## The Gift of Peace

As we continue in this Advent, I want to stay focused on the giver of gifts.

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Today I want to talk about the gift of peace. I want to start with hearing what Jesus says about the subject.

"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 NKJV

First, we have to understand that there are two kingdoms, and both have their own source of peace.

In the kingdom of God, peace is the presence of a person.

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

The Bible clearly teaches us that peace is a person, that Jesus is the prince of peace.

Peace is more than something Jesus gives to us; it is a part of his nature. It is who he is.

Let's let the Bible define the peace of Jesus.

"May grace (God's favor) and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in [the full, personal, precise, and correct] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2 AMPC

In the natural kingdom, peace is the absence of something.

For a soldier, peace is the absence of war.

For a mother of babies, peace is the absence of noise.

For a teacher, peace is the absence of conflict.

For a wife, peace is the absence of sports.

Satan wants us to believe that peace is something that we have no control over, that peace can only be attained under certain favorable circumstances that are totally out of your control.

The Christmas story is all about how God sent Jesus to restore peace on the earth.

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"  
Luke 2:8-14 NKJV

In the beginning, there was peace on the earth because Adam had fellowship with the ultimate source of peace, God the father.

When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil it represented independence from God, they were deceived into being separated from the source of peace, and chaos entered into the human experience.

Jesus came to bring reconciliation between God and man so that we could once again be connected to the source of peace.

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NKJV

Through a simple act of faith on what Jesus has done to restore union between God and man you can enter into a relationship with God who is the source of peace.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Romans 5:1 NKJV

When you born again, you received way more than a future hope of heaven.

You were restored to the image and likeness of God in Christ.

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29 NKJV

The Bible talks about the nature of God that we received. It is called the fruit of the spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV

This is for more than a set of spiritual tools you receive to make your life easier.

It is actually part of your born-again nature, it's who you are “in Christ.”

Let's look again at how God describes you now that you are “In Christ”.

Greek words of peace include perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts.

Hebrew words for peace include completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, completeness (in number), safety, soundness (in body), welfare, health, prosperity, peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment, peace, friendship.

I don't know about you but to me it sounds like God's plan for his children is pretty awesome.

This Christmas season I hope that you will get a revelation that you can live in a place of peace because the prince of peace, Jesus himself dwells in you and all you have to do is to remain or abide in the one who is peace.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5