



Light from the Word

Walking in Peace

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”¹

What is Peace?

In the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, peace is often referenced in the context of war or conflict among people—as the absence of such conflict. War is nearly always a result of one nation, (*or leader*) desiring what belongs to another – territory or power. It may be motivated by envy, greed, or even because of a perceived insult, which is pride. War is a costly effort that saps the economy of both attacker and attacked. It is a destructive force that kills and maims the innocent as well as those who are pressed into service as soldiers. Often, it depletes a nation of a generation of young men. Those who instigate war—and other forms of conflict among people—indulge their selfish interests, expecting that others will pay the price to benefit them. And though innocents are drawn into the conflict and often strive valiantly to put an end to it, the loss is often incalculable.

The spiritual conflict that Satan is waging against God is war. In an effort to elevate himself to the throne of God, the devil attempts to entice men into his service. When we walk in sin, we are taking up arms with Satan against God.

In many ways, sin is a form of spiritual terrorism, propagated by Satan, the enemy of the soul. The purpose of terrorism is to induce fear and create a climate of mistrust. Although it may not be the conscious intent of a sinner to induce fear and create mistrust, it is often the unintended consequence and has the same result. Those who have been the victims of lies or slander learn to guard against being deceived again—making it difficult to trust anyone. Those who have been the victims of greed learn to become protective of their goods—resulting in distrust and a

hardened heart. The effects and harm from sin often reach far beyond the initial transgression.

Although the victims of sin are other human beings, on a spiritual level sin is also an act of rebellion against God. If we deliberately and habitually sin, we become active participants on Satan's behalf in his war against God.

Walking in peace with God

The first step in walking in peace means that we no longer take up arms in Satan's war against God.

God has done more than His part to make peace. He has offered terms of peace that are unheard of in the world. He has paid the price Himself. In many wars, the victors claim reparations from the conquered—money to repair the damages caused. In the spiritual war, God—although the victor—has accepted the costs and the responsibility to repair the damages, by accepting the blood of His own Son in payment, and by offering to heal the brokenhearted in order to repair the damage that was caused. God has provided pardon, healing, and liberty to those who are willing to trust Him. He has promised peace.

*“Therefore being justified **by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**”²*

Peace with God is the certain result of genuine faith in the shed blood of Jesus. This saving faith, which enables us to cease walking in sin, is the first step toward walking in peace. As a soldier laying down his arms in surrender, the new believer forsakes the life of sin that he once led and by faith has peace with God. However, it is essential to not only cease from sin, but also to pursue righteousness. Peter quotes Psalm 34 and teaches us to seek peace and *pursue* it.³ Walking in peace with God means that we will no longer participate in Satan's attacks against God. We will depart from evil and do what is good. Perhaps this pursuit of peace and active righteousness

— **Please turn to pg. 63**

Continued Articles

Walking in Peace

— Continued from pg. 3

is what was missing from the man whose house was reinhabited by seven evil spirits worse than he had been before?

“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”⁴

Walking in peace may not always be a peaceful feeling

As we walk in peace with God and actively pursue righteousness, we can expect Satan to include us in his attacks. Walking in peace does not mean that life will be without temptation, trials, or attacks. Indeed, it may mean that such difficulties increase. Peace with God is not the absence of inner turmoil and conflict. It is not an emotional feeling of peace—although we may occasionally experience such feelings as a result of peace. It is the calm assurance that in spite of the spiritual attacks of the devil that the Lord is near us and hears us when we cry for help.

Jesus confirms this by His last words to His disciples before His trial, calling us to keep His commandments, and promising that the Holy Ghost will bring His words to our memory. He reminds us that in this world we will have tribulation, but to be of good cheer because HE has overcome the world.⁵

Walking in peace with others

In a similar fashion, although we cannot control how others respond to our actions, whenever possible, we are called to walk in peace with all men.⁶ Loving those who wish our harm is a challenge for the human spirit. By following Christ’s example, we can pray for our enemies, forgive those who mistreat us, and offer peace to a troubled and broken world. This pursuit of peace is worthy of our time and effort and perhaps more than anything else testifies of the peace of Christ in us.

The Good News that Jesus brought to the world is that God has made peace with man by

offering the blood of His only begotten Son in sacrifice and payment for sin. The invitation is given to believe and embrace that peace. Walking in peace with God will motivate us to pursue peace with all men—which provides evidence to others of the reality of the Lord’s offer of peace and bears fruit by propagating righteousness and peace in others ... and so it continues.

Walking in peace is sowing the seeds of righteousness to the salvation of souls.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”⁷

(Footnotes)

¹ Phil. 4:7

² Romans 5:1

³ 1 Peter 3:10-11

⁴ Psalm 34:14

⁵ John 14 - 17

⁶ Romans 12:18-21

⁷ James 3:17-18

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:7