

GOD'S



GIFT

'PEACE & ACCEPTANCE'

SCRIPTURE

Peace: Is it 'What' or 'Who'?



John 3:16 NLT ¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 NLT ⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.** ⁷ **His government and its peace will never end.** He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

Peace with God!

Rom 5:1-2 NLT

¹ “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.”

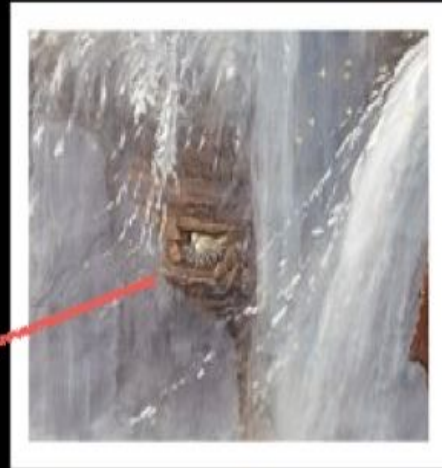
Peace 'Within' Promised and Guaranteed

John 14:27 NLT

²⁷ “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.”

Jesus owns it so He alone can give it
Which Peace does the world give?

What does the Peace (Shalom) of Christ look like?



Isa. 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"

Eph. 4:7 "...you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Why do we lose Peace?

Do we pray about everything?

Eph. 4:6-7 ⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Do we get distracted, eyes off Jesus?

Psalms 121:1-2 ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Why do we lose Peace?

Remember the three elements of the Church in the book of Acts:

Blurred Boundaries?

Misunderstanding of Grace?

1Thess 2:12 ¹² We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

Mismatched Behaviour?

Eph 4:2-3 ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

QUOTE

“The abundance of God in our lives is not passively received or imposed and does not happen by chance, it is claimed and put into action by our active, intelligent pursuit of it.”

Dallas Willard

Acceptance: is this a One-off, or a Process?

Meaning:

The action of consenting to receive or undertake something offered.
The process or fact of being received as adequate, valid, or suitable.

Three essentials to reflect on:

- You- within
- Others- around
- God- above

Acceptance

Christ knows all about rejection...

John 1:10-12 NKJV

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² **But as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Your Sin is not greater than the Cross

“God does not regret saving you. There is no sin which you commit which is beyond the cross of Christ.” - Matt Chandler