

PEACE

*When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot thou' has taught me to say
It is well it is well with my soul*

Horatio Spafford

How we all love this hymn!! The idea of rivers of peace attending our way is such a beautiful picture. The declaration of “It is well with my soul” speaks of faith and tranquility in one’s inner being. But do you know the circumstances surrounding the authorship of this beloved hymn? Read on dear sister.

“This hymn was written after traumatic events in Horatio Spafford's life. The first was the death of his son at the age of two and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the SS Ville du Havre. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died”

Such devastating circumstances would lead many of us to have a lack of peace...in fact these events could easily lead to despair and hopelessness of soul. Yet the author was able to be at peace with His God and with his life.

Can Our Lord truly provide peace during pain, trial and stress? The Bible assures us that He will. Let’s take a few minutes and do our monthly exercise of contemplating the word “Peace”

Antonyms of Peace are:

Synonyms of Peace are:

In the Webster dictionary version below, circle the words that you feel are lacking right now in your life or the words that you wish could describe your circumstances:

Peace noun

1 : a state of **tranquility or quiet**: such as

a : freedom from civil disturbance **Peace and order** were finally restored in the town.

b : a state of **security or order** within a community provided for by law or custom a breach of the *peace*

2 : freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions

*I have been in **perfect peace and contentment**— J. H. Newman*

3 : harmony in personal relations The sisters are at **peace with each other**.

4a : a state or period of mutual concord between governments

There was a *peace* of 50 years before war broke out again.

b : a **pact or agreement to end hostilities** between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity offered the possibility of a negotiated *peace* — *New York Times*

5 —used interjectionally to ask for **silence or calm** or as a greeting or farewell

at peace : in a **state of concord or tranquility** The problem was settled and his mind was *at peace*

One of the chief definitions of peace is a “lack of war or hostility between two entities”

Prayerfully and slowly read the verses on the following page. Highlight or underline anytime we as humans are described. Circle every time peace is mentioned. Then answer the questions below based on your understanding of these verses:

What was our condition or standing before coming to Christ?

What is our position now that we have trusted Christ?

Who or what accomplished this change of standing? How was it attained?

For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Colossians 1:19-22

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

(Romans 5:1-2)

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

(Romans 5:6-11)

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

(Ephesians 2:1-5)

The Bible is clear that before trusting in Christ, we were at war against God. He *was not* or *is not* our enemy, but in our rebellion, we were His. In fact, the Bible tells us we were “children of wrath” Ephesians 2:3. Yet according to His abundant grace He has made a way for us to have **peace with Him**.

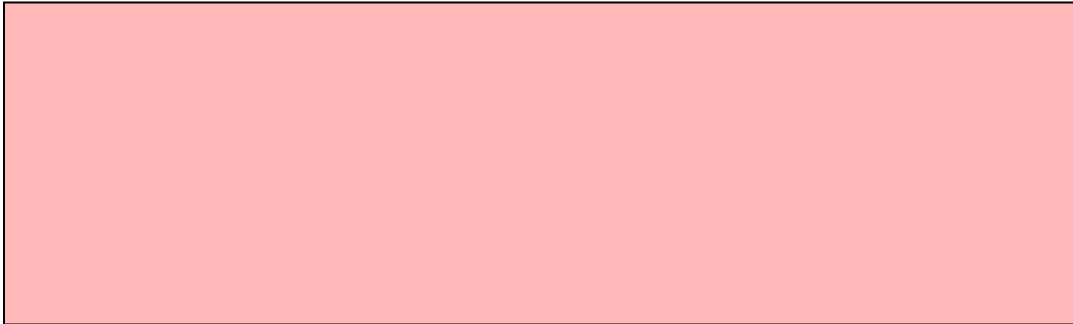
He alone fulfilled the terms of the peace treaty for us.

Praise His Holy Name!!!

“You cannot have the peace **of** God until you first have peace **with** God”

Greg Laurie

But it doesn’t end there!!! Look up John 14:27 and write it below.



The word for peace here in the Greek is eirene (pronounced i-ray’-nay)

It means; peace, harmony, agreement; to bind together; to join and weave together. It means order instead of chaos. It means that one is bound, woven, joined together with himself and with God and with others.

The Hebrew word equivalent is Shalom. It means: freedom from trouble and much, much more. It means experiencing the highest good, enjoying the very best, possessing all the inner good possible. It means wholeness and soundness. It means prosperity in the widest sense of having a soul that blossoms and flourishes.

Jesus promises us this peace!!! His peace!!! It is a peace deep within us and it is fed by the springs of the Holy Spirit bubbling up within us.

The world and the devil want to offer counterfeit sources of peace. Can you think of some of these counterfeits? List them below.

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Let's look at Jesus exhibiting this peace.

Open your Bible and read Mark 3:35-41

To get a rich understanding read the account in a couple of different translations. See <https://biblehub.com/> to access many different translations.

What did Jesus declare was the goal of the trip ? _____

Describe the storm? _____

What was Jesus doing? _____

What does this tell you about Jesus' frame of mind? _____

What do the disciples accuse Jesus of? _____

What was Jesus' immediate response to them waking Him? _____

The word "peace" here means to Muzzle. What does that tell you about Jesus' authority over storms? _____

Write out Jesus' question to the disciples?

What did the disciples learn about Jesus?

Jesus had every confidence that He and His disciples would reach that other shore.... regardless of storms. He was so confident that He slept soundly. He admonishes us that if we would have faith; we would not give way to fear. Faith in His words, His promises. Keeping our mind focused on what He says...not the circumstances around us.

≈ **Read the following Scriptures in the Amplified version.**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control. 2Timothy 1:7

You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You. So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages] Isaiah 26:3-4

From these verses above:

≈ What has God promised you and me?

≈ What are the things we are commanded to do?

The opposite of peace for most of us is WORRY!!!

What are some things that cause you to worry?

(do you need more room??? 😊)

Read Matthew 5:25- 34 (keep in mind Jesus was addressing his disciples as well as the multitudes in this setting, and the disciples had just made some big life changes. Glance over at Matt 4: 18-25 to get an idea of their life circumstances. Try to imagine the emotions and thoughts that may have been weighing on these men as well as the multitudes of Jews who were currently living under Roman occupation)

Jesus issues some commands to us worriers in this passage.

List the things Jesus commanded in the following boxes:

DON'T

DO

≈ Fear

- Worry

- Anxiety

- Stress

- are emotions with which we are all too familiar.

Is God surprised that we battle with these emotions and thoughts?

The answer is NO He is not!!!

In fact, He has placed in His Holy Word many, many verses on dealing with our fears and lack of peace. It has been estimated that there are over 300 verses addressing the issue.

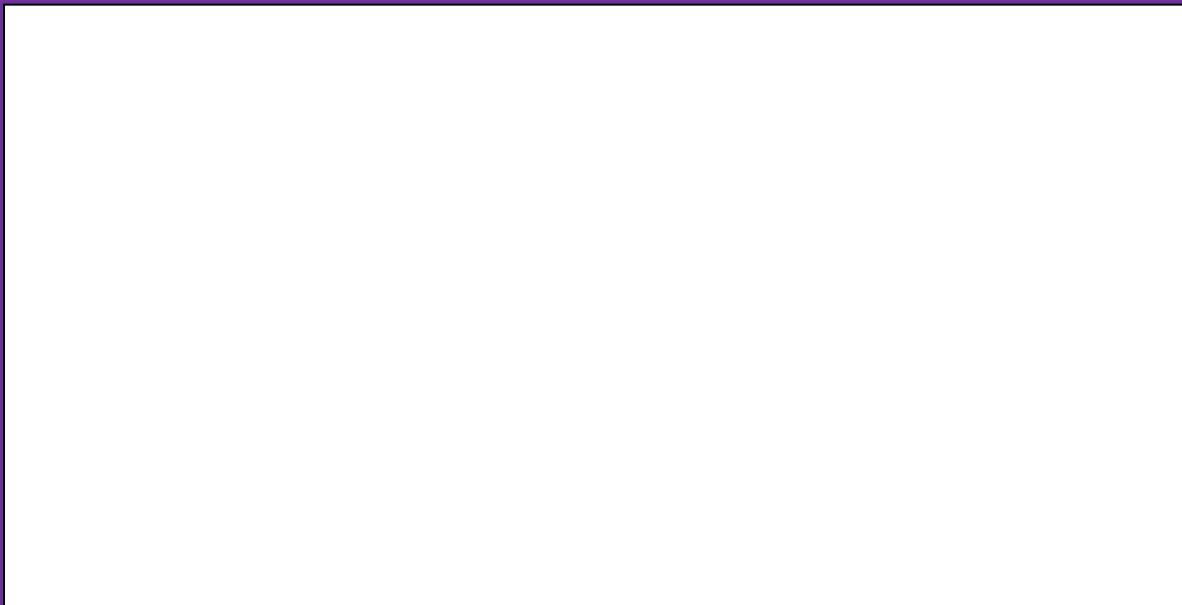
Grab your smart phones, tablets or laptop and look up a good Bible Search engine. Some suggestions are: Blue Letter Bible, Bible Gateway, the Bible Hub, Bible study tools and ESword.

Using the online concordance type in “fear” or “anxiety” or “worry” and watch how many verses come up.

Use the rest of this page to *handwrite* some of your favorites.

A helpful hint is to read these verses aloud!! Speak them to your soul like the Psalmist who spoke to himself when he said:

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God. Psalm 43:5



Maybe you came across this passage in your concordance search but to finish out this month's homework on Peace, we will spend some time gazing at this comforting and instructive area of scripture.

Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (5) Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. (6) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (8) Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. (9) The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

1. What is the command of verse 4? _____
2. What are some ways we can obey that command?
3. The word gentleness (verse 5) in the Greek means mildness, moderation, and patience. Who should observe this in us as believers?
 - 3a. Who else was described as gentle? (Matthew 11:29)
 - 3b. So to display gentleness is to be like_____.
4. In the knowledge of what coming event do we practice this conduct? (V.5)
5. What is the negative command here in v.6?
6. Instead we are to do what?
7. In what type of attitude is these supplications given? (hint: with_____)

8. What will God give us?
9. What will this peace do?
10. List the things we are commanded to meditate on?
11. Paul wrote 4 things that the believers should “DO” in verse 9.
The things which they:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Paul had said in another place “Follow me as I follow Christ “
So, in verse 9 Paul is encouraging the believers to walk in OBEDIENCE to the Lord.

12. What is the byproduct of this obedience?

On a previous page you wrote down some things that worry you ...or steal your peace? Give them to Jesus right now by presenting your supplications to Him below:

Now to foster an attitude of thanksgiving, write a prayer of gratitude to the Lord. Thank Him for all He has done and all that He will do !!!!

Now beside each of the adjectives below, write a truth or experience that fits with that word. Remember how important it is to CONSIDER (Matthew 5) and MEDITATE (Phil 4)on these things !!!

≈ True

≈ Noble

≈ Just

≈ Pure

≈ Lovely

≈ Good Report

≈ Virtuous

≈ Praiseworthy

Final Thoughts

Peace is a beautiful fruit of the Holy Spirit's work within us. As we call out to Our powerful God trusting His promises, disciplining our thoughts to focus on His goodness and kindness, we will know His peace. It is a sure promise!!! Let us not doubt but believe! Let us live lives of gratitude and rejoicing before Him and His peace will be the garrison of our thoughts and emotions.

From Corrie ten Boom's notebook
Jesus can transform our:
Fear into Faith
Anxiety into Adoration
Worry into Worship

We opened this month's homework with a hymn...let's close it with one as well.

Sing out my sister!!

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.