IMMANUEL - OUR PEACE-GIVER

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7

- **Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus - the fact that He came to our world to be with us, to save us and to help us in circumstances and relationships.**
- Isaiah the Prophet - *"The Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')."* (Isaiah 7:14)
- **We need to know the Lord is with us because sometimes our lives are often filled with much stress, anxiety and uncertainty.**
- ***Who or what robs me of peace and joy in my life?***
- ***Peace* is something everyone seems to want, and few people seem to have because of the adversities, adversaries or anxieties they're dealing with.**
- **The world's definition of peace is an "absence of conflict or trouble"; but the Lord's definition of peace is "stability in times of conflict or trouble."**
- Isaiah the Prophet - *"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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- **Jesus, our *Prince Of Peace*, wants to enable us to live peace-filled lives.**
- Jesus - *"I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27)
- ***What steps can we take to have the Lord's peace in our lives?***

To Have Peace In Our Lives We Need To:

MAINTAIN A REJOICING ATTITUDE

- *"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice!"* (Philippians 4:4)
- **It's difficult to be filled with joy and peace when we're constantly dealing with problems and problem people and complaining about them.**
- "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest." - Corrie Ten Boon

- **When we constantly focus on who the Lord is to us, what He's done for us and what He's promised to us - we will have joy and peace in our heart.**
- *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."* (Nehemiah 8:10)

To Have Peace In Our Lives We Need To:

RESPOND TO CHALLENGES BY PRAYING

- *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace."* (Philippians 4:6-7)
- **We need to pray daily, fervently and strategically, and strategic prayers include Adoration, Appreciation and Intercession (Philippians 4:6-7).**
- *"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results." (*James 5:16)

To Have Peace In Our Lives We Need To:

COMMIT TO GODLY LIVING

- *"His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:7)
- **Living a godly life means that we are committed to the Lord' priorities and principles for our lives.**
- ***Shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace, means "to be complete or whole", which won't happen until the Lord is first in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33)
- **"Eirene", the Greek word for peace, means "to be in agreement or harmony"; so we can't have peace in our lives until we are living in compliance with the Lord's will and way for our lives.**
- The Lord -*"There is no peace for the wicked."* (Isaiah 48:22)

To Have Peace In Our Lives We Need To:

FOCUS ON GODLY THINKING

- *"Keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise."* (Philippians 4:8)
- **Our thought life controls the rest of our lives, so when we focus our mind on godly things we will have peace in our mind and lives.**
- *"Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things."* (Colossians 3:2)
- *"You (O Lord) will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are focused on You."* (Isaiah 26:3)

To Have Peace In Our Lives We Need To:

CONTINUE TRUSTING IN THE LORD

- *"Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me - everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."* (Philippians 4:9)
- **The "God of peace" is also the all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God of creation.**
- Paul - *"We think you ought to know . . . about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And He did rescue us from mortal danger, and He will rescue us again."* (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
- **The Lord has promised that if we will maintain our trust in Him, He will bring us through the difficulties and challenges of our lives.**

- **Many people feel like they can't live a peace-filled life because of the adversities and adversaries they're dealing with in their lives.**
- Jesus - *"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)
- *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)
- **We won't have total peace inwardly or outwardly until we have "peace with God" and the "peace of God" in our lives.**
- *"Since we have been made right with God by our faith (in Jesus Christ), we have peace with God."* (Romans 5:1)
- *"Because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel."* (Philippians 4:7 CEV)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and what steps do I need to take to respond to it?***