

PURSUING PEACE

Galatians 5:22-23, John 14:27-29, Philippians 4:6-7

- *"The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace . . ."* (Galatians 5:22)
- ***On a scale of 1 to 10, how "peace-filled" is 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."**
- Jesus – *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)
- **According to Jesus we can have peace even when we're struggling with emotional, financial, mental, physical, relational and vocational issues.**
- 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 experience peace during challenging times?***

Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:

PLUGGING INTO THE LORD'S <u>PRESENCE</u>

- Jesus – *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace."* (John 16:33)
- **Since Jesus is the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6-7), we experience His peace when we "plug into" His presence.**
- Jesus – *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."* (John 15:4)

- **Activities that help us "abide in the Lord" include: 1) Praying daily, 2) Reading Christian materials daily, 3) Attending Church faithfully, 4) Attending a *Life Group* weekly, and 5) Listening to Christian music.**
- Paul - *"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)
- *"You (O Lord) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!"* (Isaiah 26:3)

Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:

TRUSTING IN THE LORD'S <u>FAITHFULNESS</u>

- Jesus – *"Don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27)
- **When Jesus spoke those words He was facing His own trial and crucifixion, but He was unafraid because He was trusting in Father God's faithfulness.**
- **Many people struggle with some type of fear, and fear robs us of peace in our hearts and lives, it causes us to become frail and frustrated.**
- *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."* (2 Timothy 1:7)
- **Faith is the opposite of fear, and faith in the Lord's faithfulness drives anxiety and fear from our lives.**
- The Lord - *"This is My command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)

Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:

LIVING BY THE LORD'S <u>PRINCIPLES</u>

- Jesus - *"Remember what I told you . . ."* (John 14:28)
- **Jesus taught His disciples many principles they were to live by; principles that would sustain them when they were going through difficult times.**
- *"Those who love Your instructions (O Lord) have great peace and do not stumble."* (Psalm 119:165)
- **When we live by our or the world's priorities and values we cannot be recipients of the Lord's peace (Isaiah 48:22).**
- Jesus - *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33)

Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:

BELIEVING IN THE LORD'S <u>PROMISES</u>

- Jesus - *"Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again...I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe."* (John 14:28-29)
- **Jesus kept His promises to His disciples then as He does now, and when we trust in the Lord and His promises, we can have peace in our lives.**
- ***What are some of my favorite promises from the Lord?***
- *"The Lord always keeps His promises."* (Psalm 145:13)

Living A Peace-Filled Life Requires:

MAKING <u>THANKFULNESS</u> A DAILY PRACTICE

- *"Let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."* (Colossians 3:15)
- **We should spend time thanking the Lord daily for who He is to us, what He's done for us, and what He's promised to us.**
- *"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances . . ."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- **When we're focused on being grateful God becomes bigger in our mind and our problems become smaller - which brings peace to our life.**

- *"Letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace."* (Romans 8:6)
- **We can have the Lord's peace when we put into practice what we've learned today and we let God's Spirit daily lead us in our lives.**
- *"May the Lord of peace Himself give you His peace at all times and in every situation."* (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
- **We all need to experience Emotional peace (John 14:27), Relational peace (Romans 12:18) and Spiritual peace in our lives.**
- *"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."* (Romans 5:1)
- **We won't have real peace in our hearts or even peace with others until we've made "peace with God" and we "belong to Christ Jesus."**
- *"<u>Because you belong to Christ Jesus</u>, 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 steps do I need to take to have more peace in my life?***

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK - "Lord, I want to live a Peace-filled life today. So, help me to seek Your presence, trust in Your faithfulness, live by Your principles, believe Your promises, and express gratitude for all You've done for me so that I won't be overcome by fear. In the name of Jesus."