

BIBLE STUDY SERIES:

TRUSTING THE FATHER

PEACE

Chris Badenhorst

PEACE

INTENTION:

John Lennon's Imagine envisioned a world with peace. However, it was often a world 'without' something. Yet the Lord understands there will always be something in this world that will create conflict to try and disrupt our own peace. However, it is not the lack of conflict that brings peace, but the ability to maintain a personal peace in whatever comes your way—allowing your relationship with the Lord to bring you peace in the midst of conflict.

We can live a life, both at peace with God, and having a peace in this conflicting world.

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at God's Peace—firstly His peace toward us, then what it looks like in us as Christians. When you go through the following scripture reading, focus on understanding what this kind of Peace is and how it might differ from what you have thought, or what the world expects peace to be. I like this quote from Bill Johnson in this regard:

“For most people, peace is a time without war, or a time without conflict, or as simple as a time without noise. Take note that it's always the absence of something. In the Kingdom of God, peace is the presence of someone. Peace is a person. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When the prevailing influence on our hearts and minds is the presence of Jesus, we have peace that conquers. The wonderful reality of this kind of peace is that it is not defined or controlled by its surroundings. This kind of peace changes its surroundings. Jesus slept in a storm and then released peace over that storm, and the storm stopped ([Mark 4:35-41](#)). What was in Him influenced what happened around Him.”

Furthermore, when we read of Peace in a passage, it is often the following Greek word with diverse meaning:

Peace – [G1515: eirene](#)

1. a state of national tranquillity
 - a. exemption from the rage and havoc of war
2. peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord
3. security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)
4. of the Messiah's peace
 - a. the way that leads to peace (salvation)
5. of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is
6. the blessed state of devout and upright men after death

After the reading, there are related verses that will ask some questions for you to think through and respond to.

- *Refer also: Bible Study Lesson 043 – Storms of Life*

II. READING: [Romans 5:1-21](#) (AMP)

Therefore, since we have been justified [that is, acquitted of sin, declared blameless before God] by faith, [let us grasp the fact that] we have peace with God [and the joy of reconciliation with Him] through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed). 2 Through Him we also have access by faith into this [remarkable state of] grace in which we [firmly and safely and securely] stand. Let us rejoice in our hope and the confident assurance of [experiencing and enjoying] the glory of [our great] God [the manifestation of His excellence and power]. 3 And not only this, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; 4 and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. 5 Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 While we were still helpless [powerless to provide for our salvation], at the right time Christ died [as a substitute] for the ungodly. 7 Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to willingly give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a good man [one who is noble and selfless and worthy] someone might even dare to die. 8 But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Therefore, since we have now been justified [declared free of the guilt of sin] by His blood, [how much more certain is it that] we will be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more certain, having been reconciled, that we will be saved [from the consequences of sin] by His life [that is, we will be saved because Christ lives today]. 11 Not only that, but we also rejoice in God [rejoicing in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received and enjoy our reconciliation [with God].

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all people [no one being able to stop it or escape its power], because they all sinned. 13 Sin was [committed] in the world before the Law [was given], but sin is not charged [against anyone] when there is no law [against it]. 14 Yet death ruled [over mankind] from Adam to Moses [the Lawgiver], even over those who had not sinned as Adam did. Adam is a type of Him (Christ) who was to come [but in reverse—Adam brought destruction, Christ brought salvation].

15 But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man]. For if many died by one man’s trespass [Adam’s sin], much more [abundantly] did God’s grace and the gift [that comes] by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to [benefit] the many. 16 Nor is the gift [of grace] like that which came through the one who sinned. For on the one hand the judgment [following the sin] resulted from one trespass and brought condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift resulted from many trespasses and brought justification [the release from sin’s penalty for those who believe]. 17 For if by the trespass of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in [eternal] life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 So then as through one trespass [Adam’s sin] there resulted condemnation for all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For just as through one man’s disobedience [his failure to hear, his carelessness] the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous and acceptable to God and brought into right standing with Him. 20 But the Law came to increase and expand [the awareness of] the trespass [by defining and unmasking sin]. But where sin increased, [God’s remarkable, gracious gift of] grace [His unmerited favour] has surpassed it and increased all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness which brings eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Luke 2:8-14](#) (AMP) {PoG}

In the same region there were shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord flashed and shone around them, and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people. 11 For this day in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord (the Messiah). 12 And this will be a sign for you by which you will recognize Him]: you will find a Baby wrapped in [swaddling] cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Then suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host (angelic army) praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest [heaven], And on earth peace, {goodwill toward men!}”

Question: Do we see peace on earth? Who is this peace from; who is this peace to?

Response:

B. [2 John 1:3](#) (AMP)

Grace, mercy, and peace (inner calm, a sense of spiritual well-being) will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, in truth and love.

Question: The disciples often start their letters in the Bible with this phrase; do you think it applies to you?

Response:

C. [John 14:25-28](#) (AMP)

“I have told you these things while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counsellor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you. 27 Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

Question: Whom is the source of this “perfect peace”?

Response:

D. [1 Corinthians 14:33a](#) (AMP)

for God [who is the source of their prophesying] is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order.

Question: Do you view God as peaceful? Why?

Response:

E. [2 Corinthians 13:11](#) (AMP) {PoG}

Finally, believers, rejoice! Be made complete [be what you should be], be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace [enjoy the spiritual well-being experienced by believers who walk closely with God]; and {indeed} the God of love and peace [the source of lovingkindness] will be with you.

Question: How do we live in peace?

Response:

F. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (AMP) {PoG}

But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, {faith}, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Question: How can we nurture and experience this fruit of “inner peace” in us?

Response:

G. [Ephesians 6:13-17](#) (AMP)

Therefore, put on the complete armour of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious]. 14 So stand firm and hold your ground, having tightened the wide band of truth (personal integrity, moral courage) around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart), 15 and having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. 16 Above all, lift up the [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Question: What does the “gospel of peace” mean to you, and how can it help you?

Response:

H. [Philippians 4:4-7](#) (AMP)

Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, take pleasure in Him]; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit [your graciousness, unselfishness, mercy, tolerance, and patience] be known to all people. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. 7 And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

Question: Do you have peace in yourself if you ask God for something in your life?

Response:

I. [James 3:17-18](#) (AMP)

But the wisdom from above is first pure [morally and spiritually undefiled], then peace-loving [courteous, considerate], gentle, reasonable [and willing to listen], full of compassion and good fruits. It is unwavering, without [self-righteous] hypocrisy [and self-serving guile]. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness (spiritual maturity) is sown in peace by those who make peace [by actively encouraging goodwill between individuals].

Question: God’s wisdom is always peace-loving; how does this compare to the world’s wisdom to you?

Response:

J. [2 Peter 1:2](#) (AMP)

Grace and peace [that special sense of spiritual well-being] be multiplied to you in the [true, intimate] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Question: Does knowledge of God always bring grace and peace to you?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Romans 14:17](#) (AMP) {PoG}

for the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [what one likes] *{rituals and what goes into your body}*, but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit *{what Lives in and manifests out from you}*.

Thoughts: Too often we focus on what happens around us or goes into us that we seek peace through. But we can experience true peace by recognising the Holy Spirit (and His fruit) inside of us—and that we do not have to attain (work for) righteousness, nor peace or joy; it has been Gifted in us, for us. And we have free and unlimited access to this!

This focus on the Kingdom of God is meant to also say, “don’t focus on your situation (lack of peace)”. Not that we are to ignore it, but to bring it to the Lord for His guidance with the innate TRUST that no matter what, He will do His utmost to help you in your situation and bring good from it. But that, also, while it is happening, your trust in Him to care for you (in essence) helps you maintain a peace.

