

**Psalm 119:165, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”**



Oh, the bliss of peace! As a child, we experienced the peace of innocence. We grow up in a sinful world and lose that peace of innocence, never to be reclaimed. As adults we seek a new peace to fill the void. The great peace of God not only fills the void it far exceeds the peace of innocence.

But how do we obtain the fullness of God’s peace? Our verse gives the answer: through loving God’s Word. The first step is to become a Christian. We learn to walk with God through His precious Word.

Colossians 3:12-17, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. **And let the peace of God** rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Many of the wonderful blessed benefits that are associated with God’s peace are listed in the previous verse. Can you list them? How many did you find?

Job 22:21, “Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.”

Everyone desires peace, but true peace only comes from God: A great truth that can draw men to Christ. The next time you are witnessing to someone who does not think he needs to be saved, try asking if

they are content in this life and have found true lasting peace. According to the Bible, if they are honest the answer will be no.

Isaiah 48:22, "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked."

Romans 8:6, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Let's not get confused between happiness and peace. Anyone can find temporary happiness. Even the Bible says that there is sweetness in sin for a season.

Hebrews 11:25, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

Happiness comes and goes with the changes of life. This rollercoaster emotional ride brings no lasting joy and brings no peace. Peace is comfort through any situation, whether good or bad. All people are searching for 'great peace'. It can only be found through a saving knowledge of Jesus and a close relationship with God and His Word. With the full knowledge of God's promises and through the testing of your faith, you will experience more peace and a deeper one-on-one relationship with Jesus.

2 Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace, In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

But note that you cannot rest in the peace of God's promises, if you do not know them. We must make ourselves study God's Word and hide it in our hearts.

I love the story found in Mark 4:37-41 in which Jesus demonstrates to us the great peace we can find in God.



Mark 4:37-41, "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why

are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Once in college while on a mission trip to Puerto Rico, our group was traveling across the sea on a small boat. The boat was carrying people, trucks and other cargo. Halfway across a quick storm came upon us blowing heavy winds. Each of us struggled to keep from falling and block ourselves from the torrent of rain. I remember glancing towards the back of the boat and noticing one of the large equipment trucks swaying heavily back and forth. At that moment one of the chains used to hold the truck in place broke loose. I watched in fear as the truck started to come loose and the entire boat started to tip towards the sea with the change of weight. The captain and crew quickly pulled the truck back in place and secured it again. But those moments of fear are still vivid in my mind.

I have seen pictures of waves during a storm so high that as each hit the boat, it threatens to capsize it. In this story, we are told that it was a great storm and that the waves beat into the ship and the boat was full of water. I know that if I was one of the disciples, I would be afraid. Nothing good happens when a boat is full of water or about to capsize.

When I read this story, I often image myself being one of the disciples looking over at Jesus who is asleep on a pillow. I would want to ask, "How can you possibly sleep while your body is being tossed to and fro in the boat?" (He wasn't sleeping in a hammock nor tied to the side of the boat.) "How could you possibly sleep in a pool of water?" "How in the world did the pillow stay in place?" "How could you possibly sleep through all the noise of the thunder, rain, lightning and us?" The answer: By God's Great Peace!

Psalms 4:8, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."

This is the same peace we can have! Amen, sister – I want that peace in my life!

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the **peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;"

Notice that peace and worry do not occur at the same time. You choose which you will embrace: guidance or doubt, courage or fear, peace or worry.

Setting aside the worries, doubts, fears, hurts, etc. is not a one-time event. It's a journey drawing you closer to Him. We have to learn to let go of the thoughts that simply tear us down.

Most of the time, it is our past experience or the experiences of others that causes us to doubt God's mighty hand of protection. This is simply fear and confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

"Purposefully release the past because the best is yet to come." – Karon Goodman

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

As you grow in Christ and experience the fulfillment of drinking from God's fountain of peace, not only be thankful for His blessed gift but look for others who are hesitating near the well, encouraging them to draw closer and take a long drink of a peace like no other – God's great peace.