

Rest and Tranquility

“Let the peace of the Christ control in your hearts” (Colossians 3:15).

Anxiety is a real part of life. Just look at how many commercials offer drugs to help offset the deluge of anxiety that is trying to devour our society. Jesus said: “Quit being anxious about what you will eat or about your bodies as to what you will wear.” (Luke 12:22).

Every day holds an amazing promise of God’s peace that is totally unlike the peace the world offers. Certain attitudes can destroy the peace of God. God is calling you to come deeper. Peace should be a controlling influence in your heart. An intimate relationship with Him requires you to know Him.

In each of His names, you can see just how personally He cares for you. His names reveal a lot about who He is for you. His name is endless in meanings. This means He is whatever you need, when you need it. Peace is a state of tranquility with a quietness of spirit that transcends all circumstances.

The Bible contains literally hundreds of different names and titles of God, but today’s message is about peace, so I am going to focus on Jehovah- Shalom and the portion of the word that means “peace” (The Lord our peace, Judges 6:24). Did you know the Hebrew word for "hello" and "goodbye" are both Shalom? It is spoken to bless individuals coming and going with rest, tranquility and wholeness of God in life.

"Shalom" is translated peace 170 times. Shalom means: being a state of safety, health, prosperity, and favor. It defines peace as being whole, or complete, secure, and prosperous. God’s Shalom peace refers to rest and tranquility. Another definition refers to the word "shalom" as a harmony or reconciliation of relationship based upon the completion of a transaction, the payment of a debt, the giving of satisfaction. The sacrificial death of Jesus enabled the blessing of peace with God.

Scripture describes God as the "God of peace" (Romans 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20) and Jesus Christ promised to give "peace" in the midst of the world's dangers and struggles. Every New Testament book except 1st John exhorts believers to the attainment of and growth in peace. Its clear, peace is something God wants each one to walk in and it is definitely the Lord's desire for one to live with inner peace.

The Lord your God says to you today, “I Am with you. I AM your peace that has broken down every wall.” Whatever you face this week, His peace is with you.

Rev. Dr. Gina Cobb
May 8, 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKKd15f5XWY>