

PEACE IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT

**Psalm 29:11, The LORD gives strength to his people;
The LORD blesses his people with **peace**.**

**John 16:33, "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."**

All around us is conflict today.

There is conflict in Posso.

There has been lots of conflict in Ambon.

There was conflict in Aceh for many years but thank God there is peace now.

There is conflict in Iraq with about 200 people dying every day.

There is conflict in Israel.

There is conflict in Palestine between AlFatah and Hamas.

There is conflict in Somalia

There is conflict in the Darfur area of the Sudan.

There is conflict in Pakistan and Afghanistan

There is conflict in the southern part of the Philippines.

There is conflict in North Korea.

There is conflict within families, between husband and wife.

There is conflict between parents and children.

Then there is inner conflict in our heart and mind. Conflict with self.

What is peace? In the Oxford dictionary peace means freedom from war and freedom from disorder, Rest, Quiet.

What does the Bible says about Peace?

Peace is 'Shalom' in Hebrew and it means **soundness, health, prosperity and well being** in general. It means all is well, all is in order. It does not mean absence of conflict.

In Greek peace is 'Eirene' and has the same meaning as 'Shalom'.

In the Old Testament peace was gift of God to the people IF they walked in His ways.

Read Leviticus 26:1-13:

Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God.

Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.

I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.”

The conditions for Peace are clear.

Do not make and worship idols. “I am the Lord your God” Worship Him alone”

Observe the Sabbath, the Lord’s Day.

Have reverence and respect for God’s House.

Follow God’s decrees and obey His commands.

God’s Roadmap for Peace

In the passage we just read there is God’s blueprint for peace and prosperity.

Like a road map. IF God’s people follow God’s blueprint then they will experience many blessings for peace and prosperity.

The Rain will come in its seasons

A good crop to harvest, all our needs are met

Live in safety with out fear.

The enemies will be defeated and God will give great victories.

God will walk in their midst and have fellowship with His people.

How do we enjoy Inner Peace?

In Ephesians 2:14 we read **that “He Himself is our peace”**. We who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior have inner Peace.

“We have Peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be trouble and do not be afraid, (John 14:27)

Colossians 3:15, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Inner Peace means no fear, no anxiety, no depression and no frustration. It also means to be thankful for what we have instead of always wishing for something we do not have.

The FORMULA for Inner Peace is found in Philippians 4:4-9

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ **And the peace of God,** which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praise worthy--think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. **And the God of peace will be with you.**”

Rejoice in the Lord always
Be gentle toward one another
Do not be anxious (worried) about anything
Pray – present your requests to God
Give thanks to God.
Think that which is right, lovely, pure, excellent and praiseworthy.

It is important to understand that the Peace of God in Christ is primarily spiritual peace from God. Peace in our heart and mind.

Thank God for peace in the midst of conflict. We have been called to be bringers of peace. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19...

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” Reconciliation means TO MAKE PEACE.

God has committed to us the Message and Ministry of reconciliation.

The Message is the Gospel.

By sharing the Gospel of Salvation and Forgiveness we minister the message of reconciliation.

May the God of **peace**, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **(Hebrews 13:20-21)**