

## Principle Number Two: Peace

The next step and one in which you must maintain throughout the process is to seek at the beginning to get your heart (soul or your mind, will and emotions) into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to any given matter.

**Psalm 46:10** <sup>10</sup> "Cease *striving* and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

This means we must consciously choose to disregard our own desires and selfish pride – choosing to accept whatever it is that God might have planned for us. We must seek to maintain an upright heart and a clear conscience.

**Acts 24:16** <sup>16</sup> "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both* before God and before men.

### Two-sided Reality:

It helps to keep in mind the two-sided reality of the Christian life. On the one hand, we are complete in Christ (our acceptance with Him is secured). On the other hand, we are growing in Christ (we are becoming more and more like Him).

We enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God, but we still face daily problems that often help us grow. If we remember these two sides of the Christian life, we will not grow discouraged as we face temptations and problems.

### Two kinds of Peace

1. Peace with God (being made right with God – reconciled)
2. Peace of God (peace as we are led by God)

- We are justified (declared not guilty of sin).....(Rom. 2:24)
- No condemnation awaits us.....(Rom. 8:1)
- We are set free from the law of sin and death.....(Rom. 8:2)
- We are sanctified and made acceptable in Jesus Christ.....(1 Cor. 1:2)
- We are righteous and holy in Christ.....(1 Cor. 1:30)
- We will be made alive at the resurrection.....(1 Cor. 15:22)
- We are a new creation.....(2 Cor. 5:17)
- We receive God's righteousness.....(2 Cor. 5:21)
- We are one in Christ with all other believers.....(Gal. 3:28)
- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.....(Eph. 1:3)
- We are holy, blameless, and covered with God's love.....(Eph. 1:4)
- We are adopted as God's children.....(Eph. 1:5-6)
- Our sins are taken away; and we are forgiven.....(Eph. 1:7)
- We will be brought under Christ's headship.....(Eph. 1:10-11)
- We are marked as belonging to God by the Holy Spirit.....(Eph. 1:13)
- We have been raised up to sit with Christ in glory.....(Eph. 2:6)
- We are God's work of art.....(Eph. 2:10)
- We have been brought near to God.....(Eph. 2:13)
- We share in the promise in Christ .....(Eph. 3:6)
- We can come with freedom and confidence into God's presence.....(Eph. 3:12)
- We are members of Christ's body, the church.....(Eph. 5:29-30)
- We have been given fullness in Christ.....(Col. 2:10)
- We are set free from our sinful nature.....(Col. 2:11)

- We will have eternal glory.....(2 Tim. 2:10)

**Yet, there is another abiding peace we should be familiar with.**

**Colossians 3:15** <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

The word “rule” comes from the language of athletics: Paul tells us to let Christ’s peace be the umpire or referee in our hearts (the Holy Spirit is the umpire). Our hearts are the center of conflict because it is there that our feelings and desires clash – our fears and hopes, distrust and trust, jealousy and love. We deal with these constant conflicts and live as God wants by deciding between conflicting elements by using the rule of peace. The kingdom of God is made up of such peace.

**Romans 14:17–19** <sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. <sup>19</sup> So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

**Philippians 4:9** <sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Unfortunately, many believers have a difficult time believing that God is good and that He desires only good for His children. Regardless, God’s Word instructs us to live in peace with all men:

**Hebrews 12:14** <sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Sin always blocks our vision of God; so if we want to hear or see God, we must renounce sin and obey Him:

**Psalms 24:3–4** <sup>3</sup> Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

**Satan’s Two Weapons**

As we seek to know God’s will, we must be aware that one of Satan’s tactics is to set us up to do something and then accuse us before God for doing it. The devil – our enemy – has always been a:

• **Deceiver, 2 Corinthians 11:14** <sup>14</sup> No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

• **Accuser, Revelation 12:10** <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

We must understand that Satan does not want us living in peace. Anything that violates your peace is not from God. With that said, we must also understand that we should never substitute God’s peace for our own unwillingness to do what He has commanded.

**We are called to keep Peace**

**Matthew 5:9** <sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

## **Peace Should:**

### **1. Guide**

We are to follow the pathway of peace. God's peace will guide you toward the right direction. It is God speaking to us through His Holy Spirit in a quiet voice.

**Romans 14:19** <sup>19</sup> So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

### **2. Govern**

Whenever we find no clear Scriptural guidelines for our potential decisions, we should allow the peace of God to "rule".

**Colossians 3:15** <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

### **3. Guard**

Don't be anxious or try and "force" God's hand.

**Philippians 4:6** <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

## **The redeemed can lose God's peace when they violate God's Righteousness.**

**1 Corinthians 1:30** <sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Our union and identification with Christ results in our having

- God's wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3)
- Possessing right standing with God (righteousness, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- Being holy (1 Thess. 4:3-7)
- Having the penalty for our sins paid by Jesus (redemption, Mark 10:45).