

- **What is your peace?**
- **Who is your peace?**
- **Where do you find peace?**
- **Do you have peace?**

### **Shalom - the meaning of true Peace**

Shalom comes from the root word Shalam, and it means complete, perfect and full! So it means more than just tranquility. I have learned that tranquility is the effect of peace, but it is not peace itself. Peace is what happens when you are requited, rewarded, and placed in a place of safety and fellowship. The word Shalom appears 250 times in the OT.

The first time the word Peace is mentioned in scripture is Genesis 15:15. At first glance, it seems like a passive word; it's used in the context of passing from this life into the next.

**“As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.” Genesis 15:15 ESV**

The word peace in this text is the famous Hebrew word "Shalom," a noun that means completeness, wholeness, peace, health, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, safe, well, and happy and good relationships between people and nations. It is the normal greeting and salutation of the Jewish people, and as such, like most things in life, the more we hear it and make it part of our daily lives, the more tendency we have on taking it for granted. But when we look deeper at the word in Hebrew and suddenly it comes to life and gives it a new perspective!

#### **1. The Search for Peace**

Often in our search for peace. We think, “If only I could go on a vacation,” or “If only I could get a better job.” This sense of wishfulness arises because we can think of countless things that prevent us from experiencing the peace we desire. If only I wouldn't feel so rushed and anxious and stressed. Such list, imply that peace is situational. We will experience peace once our troublesome circumstances are resolved, once that difficult person moves on, once we find a new job.

Circumstances do, of course, affect our sense of happiness. There are often countless obstacles to discovering the peace we seek: financial stress, strained relationships, poor physical health, as well as psychological ills like anxiety, phobias, and clinical depression. When our circumstances remain the same and various obstacles appear insurmountable, can we still find the peace God promises? Is it possible to experience peace even in the midst of so much tension and difficulty?

But as you base your peace on the character and personhood of God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — you will find that in the end, even the least peaceful times in your life will have drawn you closer to the one who is himself our peace.

The mystery of how exactly this can happen resides not so much in our own efforts but in God's grace and in his unswerving desire to deliver on the promise he has made.

**Isaiah 26:3 – 4;** “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, For in the Lord is everlasting strength” **(Healing for the backslider)**

**Isaiah 57:19** ‘I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near, says the Lord, And I will heal him.

**Isaiah 57: 21:** “There is no peace, Says my God for the wicked.”

## **2. The peace God promises**

**John 16:33;** “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

TRIBULATION: (thlipsis) pressure, oppression, stress, anguish, tribulation, adversity, affliction, crushing, squashing, squeezing, distress. Imagine placing your hand on a stack of loose items and manually compressing them. the word is used for crushing grapes or olives in a press.

THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE:

**Romans 5:1** therefore, having been justified \*(innocent before God) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 2:14** For He himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.

## **3. The Peace Giver**

The Bible locates shalom in only one place — in God himself. We find such peace by living in harmony with him. As we do, our divisions, both external and internal, start to heal. We become fulfilled, complete. The harmony we have with him in turn produces harmony with others and harmony within ourselves. This is peace beyond our circumstances or feelings. This is shalom—life as it should be.

From worry to peace:

**Philippians 4:6 – 7;** “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Surpasses: exceeds, to be greater than

When they think of experiencing peace, most people assume it includes feeling peaceful, tranquil, secure. But is this what God promises in the here and now? History does tell of martyrs who went to their death gladly and peacefully.

And the apostle Paul, writing from prison, says that he has “learned the secret of being content in any and every situation” (Philippians 4:12). He indicates that it is possible to learn to be peaceful regardless of our circumstances.

Still, it would seem that even Jesus did not always experience emotional peace. Witness his anger at the way the temple had been turned into a marketplace, or his tears at the death of his friend Lazarus, or his agony in the garden of Gethsemane. Perhaps neither Jesus nor his Father are promising that we will always feel peaceful, at least while we are here on earth. Maybe they are more concerned that we learn to base our lives on the peace that Christ has won, experiencing ever-deepening shalom as we follow after him.

That peace has been won by the person we know as the Prince of Peace, or in Hebrew Sar Shalom. Though Jesus spoke of bringing a sword (Matthew 10:34), he also brought shalom to all who embraced the gospel.

**Mark 5:34;** To the woman bleeding for twelve years, he said: “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

**Luke 7:50;** To the woman who washed his feet with tears, he said: “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**John 20:26 – 27;** To the disciple who doubted, he said: “Peace be with you! ... Stop doubting and believe.”

To his disciples before his death, he said in John 14:27; **“My peace I give you.”**

In these scenes and many others from the Gospels, we see Jesus restoring what is broken, healing what is bent, saving what is on the brink of destruction. If we want peace, we must embrace the one who brings it. Living as his disciple is the only way to experience all that Christ has for us.

**1 Peter 1:2;** “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

A look at how the Gospels portray Jesus reveals that Jesus was the master of the non-anxious presence. Sleeping in the boat during a storm, feeding the five thousand with a few loaves of bread, responding to the hypocrisy of religious leaders, raising a dead girl to life despite the taunts of those who thought it could not be done — Jesus was often the one peaceful person in the room. He was also the one who consistently challenged his disciples to peace-filled lives of greater maturity.

Jesus gives us a hope that is grounded in him and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Trusting in Christ and relying on the Spirit, we cannot help but overflow with the joy, peace, and hope that God provides. The peace that counts, the peace that is real, is the peace that emanates from our relationship with Christ, not from the fact that our circumstances at any given moment happen to be favourable or pleasant. As we grow in his likeness and are transformed by his Spirit, we begin to experience his peace in greater measure.

**Romans 15:13**; “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

**The gift of peace:**

- **Pursuing peace**

**Hebrews 12:14**; “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

- **The power of peace**

**John 14:27**; “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

- **The ultimate peace**

**Romans 16:20**; “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

#### 4. **The covenant of peace**

- My Kindness Shall Not Depart.

**Isaiah 54:10** AMPC declares, “For though the mountains should depart and the hills be shaken or removed, yet My love and kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace and completeness be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

Though Heaven and Earth pass away, God’s Love will not fade. Though Heaven and Earth pass away, God’s Peace shall not wither. His Peace shall keep you in all seasons. His Peace shall cover you. His Peace shall Protect you. Let the Peace of God cover your feet. Let His Peace lead you. Let His Power and Love guide your footsteps. Let His Love overtake you.

Let His Peace comfort you. Let God’s Peace shield you in the midst of battle. Let His Peace still every storm. There is nothing that can separate you from God’s Love. His Love is unbreakable. His Love is impenetrable. His Love shields. His Love conquers. His Love wins. His Love is His Peace.

Christ’s Love is greater than the temporary things of this world. Let Christ fill every void. Christ loves you beyond words that you can comprehend. The Love of Christ will outlast every age and every season of life. His Love extends beyond your fears and failures. His Love extends beyond your shortcomings. His Love will never leave you or forsake you. Let His Love shield every aspect of your life. Let His Kindness lead you. Let His Love guide your course.

There is nothing that can separate you from His Love. There is nothing that can separate you from His Peace. His Peace is His Covenant. Let His Peace guide your path. Let His Peace keep you even in turmoil.

Let the Peace of God chart your course. Let His Peace guard your heart. Surrender to His Peace even when the storms of life try to derail your course. Let His Peace keep you. Focus on His Peace. Surrender to His Peace.

**Numbers 6:24 – 26;** “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and **give you peace.**”

**Ezekiel 34:25 – 26 ESV;** “I will make with them a **covenant of peace** and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing

**Isaiah 54:13 ESV;** All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be **the peace of your children**