

Activating the Rule of Peace

LWCF

December 28th, 2008

I. Introduction

(Luke 2:12-14) This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." {13} Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, {14} "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

What is Biblical Peace?

Peace: A state of mutual harmony between people or groups, esp. in personal relations
Freedom of the mind from any strife, dissension, annoyance, distraction, or anxiety. A mental state of tranquility, serenity, silence and stillness.

Shalom defined

- Completeness, wholeness, peace, health, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony; the absence of agitation or discord. *Shalom* comes from the root verb *shalam*, meaning "to be complete, perfect, and full."
- Thus *shalom* is much more than the absence of war and conflict; it is the wholeness that mankind seeks. The word *shalom* occurs about 250 times in the Old Testament (see Ps. 4:8; Is. 48:18; Jer. 29:11).

In the New Testament... the Greek word for peace is "Eirene"

- *eirene* (eye-ray-nay); A state of rest, quietness, and calmness; an absence of strife; tranquility. It generally denotes a perfect well-being. *Eirene* includes harmonious relationships between God and humanity, individuals and individuals, nations, and families.

II. God's Word describes 2 kinds of peace.

a. Peace with God: Namely Salvation

- In Romans 5:1, Paul says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

b. Peace of God

- Many Christians have peace with God but don't have the peace of God.
- Do you have the peace of God? That inner calmness, that quiet assurance that all is well, even though outward circumstances may be dictating chaos.

III. Activating the Rule Peace

a. Awareness(prioritize) the **Presence**

1. The Author of Peace

- To have the peace of God in your life you need to make really sure you know the **Author of peace**. Over and over in the scripture, God is referred to as the God of peace.
- **He is the source**. God is the Author of peace. He created it. He made it. He knows how it works. All true peace is centered in Him.

2. The Prince of Peace

- The Second Person of the Trinity is also involved. That's Jesus Christ.
- If you know the Author of peace it will be because you have come to understand something of the Prince of Peace who is Jesus Christ.

(Isa 9:6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- He is the Prince of Peace because He is the One who solved the enmity between us and God. Accept Him and you have peace with God

3. The Spirit of Peace...

- When Jesus was teaching His disciples about the fact that He was going to have to go away and the Holy Spirit would be coming, He told them all about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's other name is The Comforter, the One who comes to bring peace in our lives.

(John 14:26-27) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. {27} Peace (Shalom) I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

b. Actively change thought **patterns**

- Many Christians have **peace with God** but don't have the **peace of God**.
- **In your thoughts**...Are you a thermometer or a thermostat?
- A thermometer reacts to the condition. A thermostat regulates the condition. If you've got the **peace of God in your heart**, that can **be the thermostat of your life**, to keep you always at the right temperature spiritually. No matter what's going on outside, you can be stable if you've got the peace of God.

Generally, unproductive thoughts follow a clear pattern.

- **Stage one**: A problem/concern/issue enters your mind.
- **Stage two**: When no clear solution comes to mind, you begin to experience negative feelings (worry, fear, stress, guilt).

- **Stage three:** Negative feelings take root and produce anxiety, tension and/or depression as you frantically try to resolve the problem yourself.

To effectively combat the ill-effects of stages two and three, we must learn to submit our concerns to God in stage one.

(2 Cor 10:5) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

(Isaiah 26:3) where we are told, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You."

c. Accentuate **prayer** and **praise**

(Phil 4:6-8) 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. {8} 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 praiseworthy--think about such things.

Promises of Praise

1. Through Jesus I continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips, which confess His name. (Hebrews 13:15)
2. I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1)
3. My tongue shall speak of God's righteousness and of His praise all the day long. (Psalm 35:28)
4. I enter into God's gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. (Psalm 100:4)
5. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)
6. Now thanks be to God who always leads me in triumph in Christ, and through me diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. (2 Corinthians 2:14)
7. I shall worship the Lord my God, and Him only shall I serve. (Matthew 4:10)
8. I am a true worshipper, and worship the Father in spirit and in truth for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (John 4:23)
9. I shall love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with my entire mind, and my neighbor as myself. (Luke 10:27)
10. I present my body to God a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is my reasonable service and worship. (Romans 12:1)

d. Apply the **Promises**...

(2 Cor 1:20) For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

(Heb 4:9-12) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; {10} for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. {11} Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. {12} For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Promises of God's Goodness and Generosity

1. Thank you Father that you are good, and that your mercy is everlasting. (Psalm 100:5).
2. Father, I thank you that your divine power has given me all things that pertain to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3).
3. I thank you God that you are for me, not against me. If you did not spare your own Son, but delivered Him up for me, I realize that you will also freely give me all things together with Your Son. (Romans 8:31-32).
4. I thank you Father that you give good things to those who ask You! I thank you that you give the Holy Spirit to those who ask you! (Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:13).
5. I thank you Father that I can ask, and I will receive. Thank you Father that you will give me whatever I ask you in Jesus' name! (Matthew 7:7; John 16:23)
6. My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Php 4:19)
7. God wants me to prosper and be in health, even as my soul prospers. (3 John 1:2)
8. God is able to make all grace abound towards me, that I, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. (2 Cor 9:8)
9. I delight myself also in the Lord, and He shall give me the desires of my heart. (Ps 37:4)
10. Jesus came that I might have life and have it more abundantly. (Jn 10:10)

e. Administer your life through planning...

(Col 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.

The Rule of Peace

- God tells us in the book of Colossians that we are to measure our lives by the rule of peace.
- God has placed within us a deep sense of peace which becomes the arbitrator in our lives between the options which are presented to us every day.
- Sometimes you have to rest upon the Spirit of peace who is living within you to be the **umpire of your soul**, and give you the direction you need. Then the peace of God will rule in your heart.
- We develop it, we practice it, and in the little things that come our way each day, we let the peace of God rule.
- I don't believe you can do that in the big things unless you get involved in doing it in the little things. We develop our character little by little.
- You will really appreciate the peace of God in your life only after you understand the cost at which it was purchased.
- Jesus Christ died on the cross to provide peace for you with God, but it is that same death that is the payment for your peace which is described as the peace that passes understanding, the peace of God. He took the pain so we could have the peace. We need to claim by faith what He has done for us and begin immediately to operate on the principles of peace and walk worthy of His death.