

Yahweh Shalom – The Lord of Peace

Philippians 4:7, Judges 6:23-24, Romans 5:1; 14:17-19

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In our study of the Hebrew names of God we have discussed God is the Strong Creator – Elohim. God is the Lord who created us to be in a Relationship with Him – Yahweh. God is Almighty – Adonai. He is Lord God Savior – Yahweh Elohim Yeshua. God is Holy Spirit – Rauch Hakodesh. The Lord is Peace – Yahweh Shalom.

I've got some stories to tell you. Stories about losing my peace in Christ. Stories about my granddaughter's graduation. The best story that I have to tell is Jesus is my peace. Is Jesus your peace? When I call upon Jesus, His peace permeates throughout body, mind, and spirit. The problem is I don't call upon Him. I wait until my peace has been stolen away by my circumstances.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 (NIV84)

This is Yahweh Shalom. I'll get to that in a minute.

God is Peace, Hope, Righteousness, Faith, Power, and Joy. Peace is beyond our mental comprehension. Peace cannot be explained. Whether the attempt to explain is intellectually, theoretically, emotionally, or even spiritually we don't possess the words.

We think of peace as the absence of conflict. We also associate quiet with peace. Peace, specifically the Peace of Christ from God, can only be experienced. Jesus is the only way to experience Peace.

We long to experience peace especially since we can't explain it. Peace always seems just beyond our grasp. Just when we start to get focused on work there is an interruption. Or when we sit down to read a favorite novel the phone buzzes. We take our drink to the porch to watch the sunset and the neighbors dog starts barking. We're planting flowers and the dude on the Harley cruises by the house. All that we want is a little peace and quiet.

The peace we crave, that we need is more than just the absence of conflict and a quiet moment. Peace is hope when things look bad. Peace is being in a right relationship with Yahweh Elohim. Peace is believing when there is no reason to believe. Peace is knowing that there is a power that overcomes all obstacles. Peace is the joy of seeing through the fog and smoke to where Jesus is victorious.

Peace is experienced through our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus was a peace in the manger in Bethlehem. Jesus was at peace on the mountain when there was no food. Jesus was at peace when He walked across the water and rescued His disciples. Jesus was at peace when He was accused of being a demon. He knew who He was – the Son of God. Jesus was at peace when the disciples didn't understand. He loved them and came to save them. Jesus was at peace as the soldiers approached to arrest Him. He was going to die so they could be forgiven. Jesus was at peace while they drove the nails in His hands and feet. He was about to defeat death.

Peace is experienced by faith in Jesus as the Savior of today and tomorrow. He is Yahweh Shalom.

But the Lord said to Gideon, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.” So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord is Peace. Judges 6:23–24 (NIV84)

This is Yahweh Shalom.

We are crippled and paralyzed by circumstances and we are in need of God’s peace. Gideon is a really old guy. He lived after Moses and Joshua, but before David. The people of God had become selfish, looking out only for themselves. Which means they had forgotten to worship the Lord. They were putting their trust in their own accomplishments. They were turning to idol worship. As a result they were being attacked by marauding nomadic warriors.

Without faith and trust in the Lord God Almighty they had no claim to the land. These people, Midianites, hated God’s people. They attacked and took their fruit, grain, and animals. They made life miserable for God’s people who had abandoned God. So, instead of calling on the Lord God Almighty they started hiding in the caves and the mountains. They would only leave the mountains in secret to get the food they needed.

Gideon owned a winepress and they used it to grind their wheat. This is when an angel of the Lord appeared to him. Gideon was not a brave man, nor was he a man of violence. He had no training in warfare or battle. He had no desire to fight to defend the land. He did trust that God would send someone to deliver them.

So, what did the Lord tell Gideon? You guessed it – Gideon was going to be the one to deliver God’s people. Gideon argued, made excuses, and debated with the Lord. He was anxious, nervous, worried, scared, discouraged, and already defeated. So, to prove that the Lord would do this mighty thing, Gideon was told to prepare a sacrifice. When Gideon had made all the preparations, the Lord brought fire to the sacrifice and consumed it.

Gideon the anxious and nervous was now Gideon the confident, hopeful, and empowered. Gideon was at peace because of the Lord of Peace. This is Yahweh Shalom.

Just like Gideon there are situations and circumstances that steal God’s peace from our lives. The older I get the more that noise bothers me. I may have brought this on myself by being such a noise making idiot. I let the noise steal my peace.

Chaos tends to steal my peace. When there are five people going in ten directions, back and forth, up and down my peace just vanishes. Lying steals my peace: lying by not telling the truth to simple questions; lying by twisting the facts to suit someone’s situation – manipulation. People start lying and peace goes through the roof with the top of my head. Laziness steals my peace. I’m not just talking other people being lazy, I’m also talking about me being lazy. The other word is procrastination.

What’s stealing away your peace? What is taking away the peace that Jesus gave to you?

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:17 and 19 (ESV)

Living for Jesus means we are at peace every moment of every day. I didn’t feel that way at Sam’s Club, Walmart, or with the smart-mouthed student sitting behind. Let me tell you about the

second day of our vacation. It was graduation day for our granddaughter. Lonie and I went to Sam's Club and then to Walmart. While at Sam's Club the warehouse of all warehouse stores the staff were driving around with their forklifts moving supersized items of everything big and small. Every fork life has beep, beep, beep, beep, beep. There goes my peace.

We got in the car and I said, "that was stressful." Lonie thought I was nuts. My peace had been stolen. We got to Walmart where two guys were wandering aimlessly through the parking lot, looking suspicious. Inside the building there were hundreds of thousands of people, it was like Christmas. One of the items we needed was in a locked cabinet. We pushed the button. From five miles away one the employees said, "I'll send someone over." We pushed the button. Same response. We pushed the button. Same response.

I walked the five miles turned the corner to see two employees looking at their Walmart communicators and talking. "My wife and I are trying to get something from the locked cabinet. There are two other people who need something from the cabinet." "Okay, we'll send someone over." "I've heard that three times already." "Sir, I'll take care of it right away." "Thank you."

When the woman opened the cabinet she kept the item, telling my wife that it would be at the self check-out. After standing in line at the self check out for half of eternity, we were given our item. We scanned all our items, bagged them and left only to realize we forgot the vegetarian baked beans! My peace had been stolen.

At the graduation the school parking lot was full and there was a line of people waiting to get in the gate. We parked at the church next to the school walked to the end of the line and waited and waited and waited. Sitting down, three high school students sat down behind us. They talked about everything under the sun while listening on their phone to what some people call music. The ceremony began and they kept talking. They talked through the pledge. They talked through the first speaker. They called a fellow student a name. They laughed when a student in his speech spoke Vietnamese to His parents. My peace had been stolen.

I slowly turned around and ripped off their heads, throw them over the top of the bleachers, jumped down on them and pounded them into the ground. No I didn't. I quietly and firmly said, "this isn't YouTube or Instagram, you don't have to make a comment about everything. Be quiet and listen."

Peace only comes when we give the moment to Jesus. All that day I had been praying, giving thanks for God's peace. But in that moment at the graduation I prayed for Jesus to speak to me and through me. Jesus gave me His words. Then I was at peace.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 (ESV)

Let's help one another experience Peace by sharing Jesus. Someone during your day is going to need the Peace of Jesus restored. I'm talking about another believer. You and I are human and still live in a world of chaos and peace stealing situations. We fall to the temptations, loosing our peace. So, we need one another. We need to hear the words of other believers praying for us. Nothing elaborate, just simple words calling on the name of Jesus.

Be prepared to be that person. Anybody can pray at anytime. You already pray all the time. You're praying for yourself. Pray now for another believer.

Jesus was peace personified, right? Nothing, not even facing death, stole His peace away. He is ready to give us that peace. He will make His peace come alive in you. He will give hope and joy because they accompany peace. He will remind you that you are a child of God, His brothers and sisters. You are only at peace because you have been set free from your sin, restored in your relationship with Elohim, Yahweh, Adonai, Raach Hakodesh, Yeshua.

Peace is speaking Jesus into the situation. You are going to encounter someone who needs the Peace of Jesus Christ. I'm talking about sinners, unredeemed, unsaved, undelivered people. We live in a world filled with them. We were once them.

Speak Jesus into their situation. Sinners are not at peace and they need to be. The unredeemed need to be redeemed by Jesus. The unsaved need to be saved by Jesus. The undelivered need to be delivered by Jesus. They will not have peace in their lives until they have Jesus. They don't know what they are missing because they don't know Jesus and haven't experienced His peace. They know that they want something different than what they have in life. They want more than noise and chaos, disappointment and anxiety. They need us to speak Jesus into their situation.

So, when you see someone who needs the peace of Jesus start praying. Pray for their salvation. Pray over their situation. Pray for Jesus to intervene. Speak the name of Jesus.