



BIBLICAL APPROACH TO EXPERIENCE PEACE

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Abstract

Present article focuses primarily on biblical strategies to pursue peace. It describes meaning of peace according to Old and New Testament of Bible, facts about peace in Bible and finally ways to pursue peace mentioned in it. Meaning and philosophy behind peace in Old and New Testament is different but well correlated. Peace is proclaimed by God, it is fruit of spirit, it is imparted by Jesus, godly people live in peace but there is no peace to wicked, unity is product of peace and we have to take efforts to pursue peace. We receive peace only through Jesus Christ, His Holy Blood, trusting on Him, by interceding for others, by loving word of God i.e. Bible, surrendering ourselves to Holy Spirit, by righteousness, seeking wisdom and being steadfast in God.

Keywords: *peace, Bible.*



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There are different meanings of PEACE, we shall see some of them. According to Oxford Dictionary meaning of peace is freedom from disturbance; tranquillity, mental or emotional calm, a state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended, a treaty agreeing peace between warring states or the state of being free from civil disorder, The state of being free from dissension. Definition of peace. (n.d.). Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes peace as freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions or harmony in personal relations. Now will see what Holy Bible says about peace. Definition of peace. (n.d.).

Meaning of Peace in Bible

Bible is divided into two parts i.e. Old Testament and New Testament and both have different meaning for peace. In the Old Testament, the primary Hebrew word for “peace” is *shalom*, which has rich meaning in Hebrew. “Peace” is an accurate translation of the term, but *shalom* implies more than lack of conflict. According to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, *shalom* means “completeness, soundness, welfare, peace.” Strong, (1890). It is translated “success” and used as part of an inspired blessing in (*then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: “We are yours, O David; We are on your side, O*

son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you.” So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.- **1 Chronicles 12:18, NKJV**). This peace was given to David in form blessings to when Amasai due to Spirit of LORD came to extend help to David. *Shalom* is applicable to an external peace between two entities—such as individuals or nations—and to an internal sense of peace within the individual. It refers to relationships between people (“*These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters. - Genesis 34:21, NKJV*), nations (*So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together. 1 Kings 5:12, NKJV*), and God with men (*I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly.- Psalm 85:8, NKJV*). Peace is a desired status in each of these arenas, and *shalom* is often tied to a covenant or a promise kept. “Peace” was the standard greeting (*And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: ‘Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have! - 1 Samuel 25:6, NKJV*), still used in many cultures today. Goldstein,(1997), What is the meaning of the Hebrew word shalom? (n.d.)

In the New Testament, the primary Greek word for “peace” is *eirene*, use of *eirene* remains firmly based in the Hebrew traditions of *shalom* and it refers to rest and tranquillity. It can describe both the content and the goal of all Christian preaching, since the message is called the Gospel of Peace (*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace ; - Ephesians 6:15, NKJV*). A key focus of peace in the New Testament is the advent of Jesus Christ, as announced by the angels in (“*Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*” - **Luke 2:14, NKJV**). Prophet Isaiah had predicted the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace (*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6, NKJV*), and He is called the Lord of peace in (*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all. - 2 Thessalonians 3:16, NKJV*). It is through Christ’s work of justification that we can have peace with God (*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, - Romans 5:1, NKJV*), and that peace will keep our hearts and minds secure (*and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:7, NKJV*). Goldstein(1997), What does the Bible say about peace? (n.d.)

Facts about Peace in Bible:

God proclaims peace: (9."Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.' - **Zechariah 9:9,10, NKJV**). These verses clearly explain that peace shall be declared and proclaimed by LORD Jesus, peace is in His hand and we should come unto Him to receive peace.

Peace is fruit of spirit: (22. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23. gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. - Galatians 5:22, 23, NKJV*). As our spiritual relation grows with LORD, He gifts us with nine kinds of spiritual gifts among them one is PEACE.

Jesus gives us the peace: (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 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. - John 14:27, NKJV*) Lord Jesus says that He has already given peace to us. His peace is not temporary, it is eternal. When we search peace in worldly options like cinema, addiction, immoral sex, money, etc it is for time being, instead if we search peace in Jesus, He gives us everlasting peace.

God's people live in peace: (*My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places, - Isaiah 32:18, NKJV*) However trials and tribulations godly people shall go but finally they shall have peace, security and rest in their life.

Unity is through the peace: (*endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.- Ephesians 4:3, NKJV*) Where there is peace there is unity, therefore in different social relations of our worldly life we should strive to maintain peace, only this peace shall keep relations, families, neighbourhood, states and nations united for humanity.

There is no peace for wicked: ("*There is no peace,*" says the LORD, "*for the wicked.*" - **Isaiah 48:22, NKJV**). If any individual is with wicked, sinful, unrighteous and wrong thought and action he or she is deprived of peace. Chelladurai (2009)

Biblical Strategies to Pursuit Peace:

Through Jesus Christ: (*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, - Romans 5:1, NKJV*) Bible clearly says through this verse

that God has justified us through our faith on Him, but to have peace from God we should come to Him through Jesus by believing and trusting in Christ.

In Christ: (*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*” - **John 16:33, NKJV**) When we are living in this world sorrow, pains and troubles are part and parcel of our life but if we come to Jesus, we shall surely find eternal peace in Him.

Christ Blood: (*and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.* - **Colossians 1:20, NKJV**) Each and every person in this world is a sinner and sinned many times. We should be punished for our sinful thoughts and action but we are not punished, it is just because our Lord Jesus Christ took responsibility of our sins on cross where He shed His Holy blood and we received peace instead of punishment.

By interceding : (*1. Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2. for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.* - **1 Timothy 2:1, 2, NKJV**) We always pray ourselves but we ought pray for all people around us and our government this gives some sought of peace not only to us at individual level but also to our society and nation.

Trusting God: (*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* - **Romans 15:13, NKJV**) When our life goes through ups and downs we tend to lose our peace. During such time we should just completely trust on God with our whole heart definitely our peace will be restored.

By praying to God with thanksgiving: (*6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* - **Philippians 4:6-7, NKJV**) When we become anxious we are at unrest and our peace diminishes, as a replacement we should pray and thank Almighty God who shall confer us peace beyond our understanding through Jesus Christ. For Great prayer warriors shortest distance between problem and its solution is distance between knee and ground i.e. kneeling down to pray.

Loving the word of God: (*Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.* - **Psalms 119:165, NKJV**) Loving Law or word of God here means loving to read and follow Bible. Bible shows us righteous path to walk on, to follow. When we are finding answer to some question in our life, when we are confused, when we want to take

some decision, when we have sinned and wondering what to do? Simply read Bible you find PEACEFUL answer in it.

When spirit controls: (*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. - Romans 8:6, NKJV*) When we work according our flesh we sin, just sin. As an alternative we should totally surrender our body unto Holy Spirit because if we do so we shall always be diverted from sin and therefore output we be peace.

By seeking peace: (*Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. - Psalms 34:14, NKJV*) To pursue peace we should search peace by turning our back to evil and proceed towards good deeds.

By righteousness: (*The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. - Isaiah 32:17, NKJV*) When our thoughts and deeds are righteous we are without fear which imparts us inner peace.

Through Wisdom: (*Her (wisdom) ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. - Proverbs 3:17, NKJV*) When seek, gather, respect and value wisdom, we are able discern between good and bad, we know how to react according to situation and many more thing. Scope of God given wisdom is unbounded. Any kind of problem in life can be countered through Godly wisdom which ultimately results in peace.

By being steadfast: (*You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts n You. - Isaiah 26: 3, NKJV*) To receive perfect peace we should always and continually focus our mind on Almighty Jesus Christ. Chelladurai(2009)

Conclusion

The afore mentioned Biblical ways or strategies to pursue peace are personally believed and followed by author which helped him to experience inner peace in life especially during roller coaster phase. Therefore it is strongly recommended to try biblical ways to experience peace – INNER PEACE.

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