

Understanding God's Will – Lesson 8

The Rest Area Sign: Peace

I. What God's Peace Is Not

- a. God's peace is not circumstantial
 1. John 14:27 – Jesus clearly draws a line between his peace and that from this present world's system.
 2. Galatians 5:22-23 – Scripture clearly teaches that God's peace is produced by the Holy Spirit, not by our circumstances
- b. God's peace is not always logical
 1. God's peace opposes the world's systems and order.
 2. Examples of peace in illogical times
 - Peace during a flight with extreme trouble
 - Peace after the prognosis, treatment and surgery for a catastrophic illness.
 - Peace during the time of scandal and rumors flying around about you.
 - Peace during a sudden job layoff.
 3. One thing to remember is that God sees things we don't see because of our limited view point.
- c. God's peace is not always synonymous with the lack of problems.
 1. God can give us peace during problems and difficulties.



II. What God's Peace Is

a. Different from the World

1. God's peace is different from the peace given by the world.
2. The world gives peace, but it is based on our circumstances, and experienced in our feelings.
3. God's peace is based on our being in the center of His will, and it is experienced not in our feelings, but in our spirit.

b. Devoid of fear in our hearts

1. God's peace is the absence of a troubled heart.
2. Jesus admonishing us not to allow our hearts to be troubled indicates we have a choice.
3. The Christian determines how to feel based upon his relationship with God.
4. John 16:32-33 – When we experience God's peace he gives us great joy and cheerfulness, courage and comfort.
5. Philippians 4:6-7 – Paul admonishes the reader not to be anxious or stressed about anything. If stress does come it should drive us to prayer.
6. Peace or rest is a spiritual state, a position of everything being right in my relationship with God.

III. Where God's Peace Originates

a. Condescend (Letting Him lead – Galatians 5:22-23)

1. Peace is the fruit of yielding to the Holy Spirit's control in your life.
2. The Holy Spirit must be in complete control.

b. Concentrate (Looking to him – Isaiah 26:3)

1. Focusing on him allows us to remove our thoughts from our challenges and problems.
2. The children of Israel had to look up to live when the serpents were plaguing them. (Numbers 21:4-9)

- c. Converse (Learning to communicate with Him regularly)
 - 1. Psalm 119:165 – Great peace they have which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.
 - 2. Romans 8:6 – For the carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

IV. What God’s Peace Does

- a. God’s peace accomplishes His purpose. (Philippians 4:7)
- b. God’s peace guards our hearts and minds
- c. God’s peace protects our hearts from fainting, and weakening.
- d. God’s peace preserves our minds (literally, our thoughts) guarding them from anxiety.
- e. God’s peace guides us (2 Corinthians 2:12-13)

V. Questions to consider

- a. Is there any evidence that a lack of peace is resulting from a faltering trust in God?
- b. Have you given any recent decision over to God?