

The Way Of Peace

Luke 1:79

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

KJV

I received several desperate calls from ladies in the last few weeks who do not attend our church.

In one situation, a wife was upset with her husband because of his bad habits. One of his bad habits is being a reckless driver. This wife wanted to know what to do because her husband was in a car accident and one of their children was in the car. She was at her wits end.

In another situation, a mother was upset with her teen age son because she arrived home to find him in his bedroom with his girlfriend, kissing. She escorted the young lady out of her house. When her son became upset with his mother because of the way she treated his girlfriend, she slapped him. When she discussed the situation with her husband, he did not seem that concerned.

Although these ladies do not attend our church, I would assume that some of you have recently experienced a similar type stress in your family.

After listening to the first ladies story, I asked her the question, "What do you want to see happen with your husband?" She said that she wanted to see him change his bad habits. But she knew that he would never change apart from divine intervention.

I then asked her the question, "What do you want to see happen in you?" She said that she wanted to be able to maintain a grateful and thankful heart.

What does God want to see happen in each of these ladies?

Luke 1:79

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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Luke 2:14

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

KJV

Luke 10:5-6

5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

KJV

Luke 24:36

36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

KJV

Are these references to peace with God, peace in your soul, or peace in relationships? We know that there will not always be peace in relationships.

Luke 12:51-53

51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:
52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

KJV

God wants these women to experience peace in their soul.

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

KJV

John 16:32-17:1

32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.
33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

KJV

Peace can be very elusive. We experience so many circumstances we cannot control. We cannot control people, especially the people we love. We cannot control God.

It is the need for peace that causes many women to become controlling. It is the need for peace that causes many men and women to become passive.

If I asked you the question, "How do you experience peace in your world, how would you answer?"

"Trust God! Pray more." These are good biblical answers. Is it working?

Faith in the bible is never reduced to just believing the right things.

Faith is a decision to be led by God's Spirit rather than our first thoughts, emotions, or desires.

When we face difficult situations like these ladies were facing, our first thoughts, emotions, and desires normally come from our flesh and cannot be trusted. Faith or trusting God is a decision to be led by God's Spirit rather than our initial thoughts, emotions, or desires.

It is not wrong to have natural thoughts, emotions, and desires. But trusting God means to decide to be led by the Spirit rather than these natural attributes.

Jesus described this decision in the garden of Gethsemane. He said, "not my will but thy will be done."

Luke 22:42

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

KJV

Jesus had natural thoughts, emotions, and desires. They resisted the cross. As a result, He was not at peace about his immediate future when he entered the garden of Gethsemane. He was the son of man. He was tempted in every way even as we are but without sin. Not having peace is not sin. It can lead to sin. But Jesus trusted the father when he chose to be led by the Holy Spirit rather than his initial thoughts, emotions, and desires. He experienced the way of peace when He made this decision.

The bible says an angel of the Lord appeared to him and strengthened Him after He made this declaration. It takes such strength to have peace in such a difficult circumstance. God will do his part the moment we decide to be led by His Spirit and not by our flesh.

This decision of faith to be led by God's Spirit and not by our initial thoughts, emotions, and desires should be made in our crisis of faith before we make any other decision; before we forgive; before we yield our rights; before we make any major decision about how to handle a crisis. We need to experience God's peace before we appropriate the other means of grace to our soul.

I encouraged both of these ladies with these truths. Their spirit changed as we talked. They both thanked me for helping them as we closed the conversation. I have seen this happen to so many people when I shared this truth with them. God always does His part when we do ours. This is the way of peace.

Are you walking in it?

The influence you have on others will increase when you walk in the way of peace.

You will never be able to completely control those circumstances and people that bother you the most. What you want to see happen in others will require divine intervention. But you can walk in the way of peace.

