

Finding Lasting Peace

Pastor George Stahnke, 04/27/2003

I. To have peace we must yield to God's authority and become teachable.

Job 22:21 (NASB) "Yield now and be at peace with Him; Thereby good will come to you.²²"Please receive instruction from His mouth And establish His words in your heart. ²³"If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored; If you remove unrighteousness far from your tent,

Job 22:21 (NIV) "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.²²Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.²³If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored: If you remove wickedness far from your tent

Job 22:21-23 (NLT) "Stop quarreling with God! If you agree with him, you will have peace at last, and things will go well for you. ²²Listen to his instructions, and store them in your heart. ²³If you return to the Almighty and clean up your life, you will be restored.

II. To walk in peace we must walk in obedience and remove those things from our lives that pollute our relationship with God and others.

2 Chronicles 14:1-6 (NIV) And Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. Asa his son succeeded him as king, and in his days the country was at peace for ten years. ²Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. ³He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. ⁴He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands. ⁵He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him. ⁶He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest.

Colossians 3:8-10 (NIV) But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

James 1:21 (NIV) Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

1 Peter 2:1 (NIV) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

III. To walk in peace will must be willing to lay down our rights. What are you willing to sacrifice for peace?

Genesis 26:17-22 (NIV) So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. ¹⁸Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. ¹⁹Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. ²⁰But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, (*Esek* means *dispute*) because they disputed with him. ²¹Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. (*Sitnah* means *opposition*) ²²He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, (*Rehoboth* means *room*) saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land." (*emphasis added*)

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1 Corinthians 6:7 (NIV) The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT) . . . Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.

IV. To walk in peace we must respond in the opposite spirit.

1 Peter 2:23 (NLT) He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

1 Peter 3:9-10 (NIV) Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

V. To walk in peace we must be aggressive and determined.

1 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Psalms 34:14 (NIV) Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Seek peace

Seek: G2212: ζητέω zēteō [*dzay-teh'-o*] Desire, endeavour, enquire (for),

Seek: H1245: שָׁקַח bāqash [*baw-kash'*] To *search* out (by any method; specifically in worship or prayer); by implication to *strive after*:—ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, (make) request, require, seek (for).

Pursue it (peace)

Pursue: G1377: διώκω diōkō [*dee-o'-ko*] To run after; metaphorically, to pursue, to seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavour to acquire

Pursue: H7291: רָדַף rādaph [*raw-daf'*] To *run after* (Piel) to pursue ardently, aim eagerly to secure, pursue

GREMATICAL TERM EXPRESSING INTENSIVE ACTION	
Qal	Piel
he broke	he broke to pieces, he smashed
he sent	he sent away, he expelled

Psalms 34:14 (AMP) Depart from evil and do good; seek, inquire for, and crave peace and pursue (go after) it!

1 Peter 3:11 (AMP) Let him turn away from wickedness and shun it, and let him do right. Let him search for peace (harmony; undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts) and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]