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June '26

Peace



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A photograph of a young child and an adult walking away from the camera through a field of tall, dry grass. The child is in the foreground, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and brown pants. The adult is slightly behind and to the right, wearing a dark top and jeans. The background is a soft-focus field of grass and small white flowers.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO

RECEIVE THE KINGDOM

OF GOD LIKE A LITTLE CHILD
(MARK 10:15)?

BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

In Mark 10:13–16, Jesus is traveling through Judea when people bring their children to Him for a blessing. The disciples, thinking they are protecting Jesus’ time and dignity, scold the parents and try to send the children away. Jesus becomes angry with His disciples and responds, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (verses 14–15).

Jesus not only permits the children to come to Him but also lifts them as examples of humility, trust, and openness—qualities required of those who would receive His kingdom. Leading up to this scene, the disciples had resisted Jesus' teachings about His upcoming suffering, emptying, and humiliation (see Mark 8:32; 9:10, 19, 31–32). They demonstrated arrogance and independence, thinking they could dictate the terms of salvation to God rather than humbly receive His plan. The Lord seizes this opportunity to clarify that His kingdom is open only to those prepared to embrace His message of a suffering Servant and Savior. We accept the Lord's plan and receive His kingdom by relinquishing our pride and trusting His words, just like a little child trusts a loving parent.

In Jesus' day, children held an extremely low social position. They possessed no authority and contributed little to society. They were dependent, vulnerable, and entirely reliant on others for care. These are qualities adults often resist, but they exemplify the posture of a kingdom servant. Thus, to receive the kingdom of God like a little child means to approach Him with simple faith, trust, and dependence.

The children did not come to Jesus with credentials or accomplishments. They came empty-handed, humbly depending on Him to provide everything for them. Likewise, salvation is not something that we can earn through human effort, status, or pedigree (Romans 3:20–28; 4:4–5; Galatians 2:16; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5). The Bible teaches that we are saved “by his grace” and we “can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God” (Ephesians 2:8, NLT). A childlike heart recognises its own neediness and gladly receives what God freely gives.



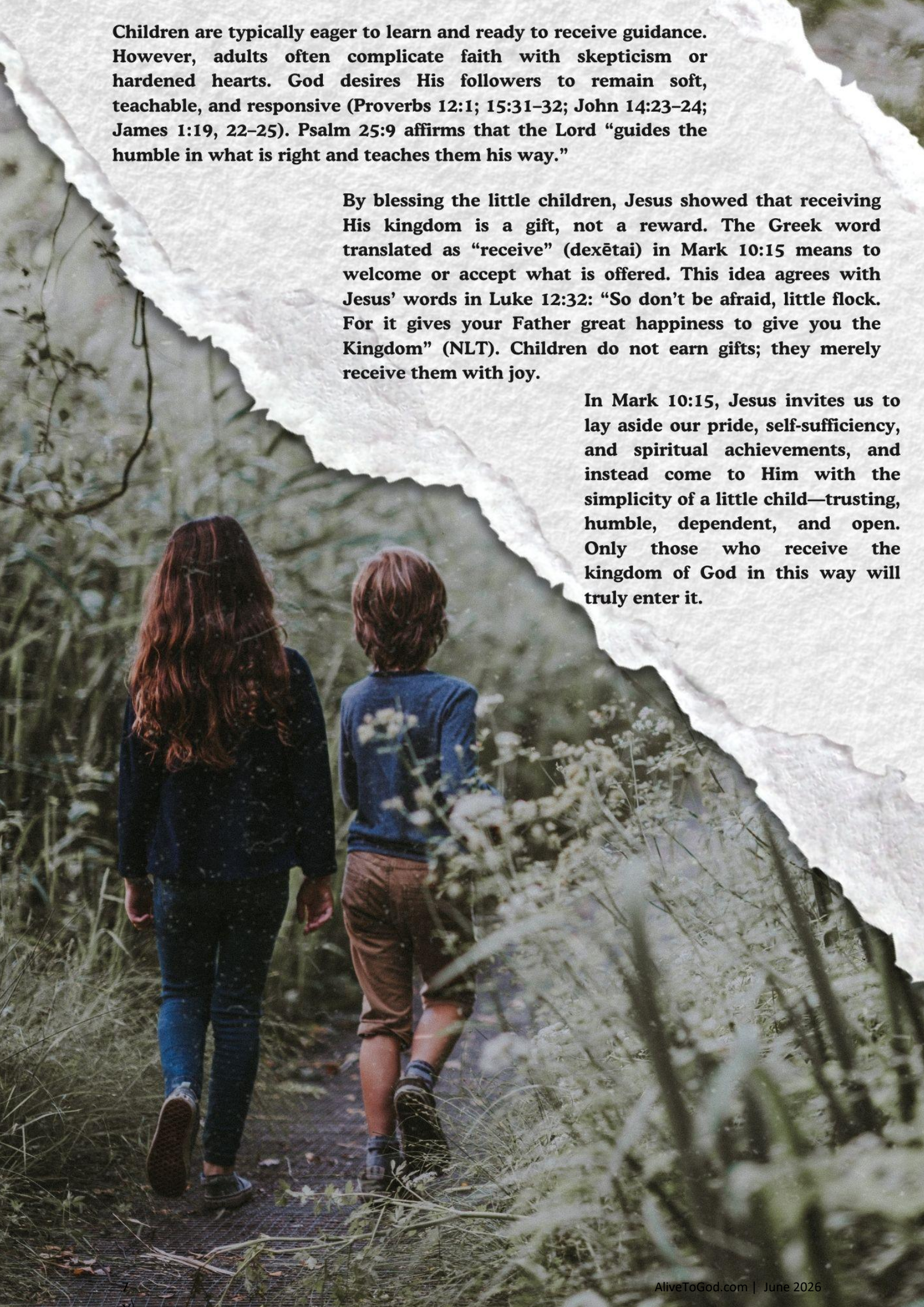


A little child naturally believes the words of a loving parent. This simple, unobstructed trust is the opposite of self-reliance. The rich young ruler, who came to Jesus immediately after the little children (see Mark 10:17–31), trusted in his own wealth and achievements. But Jesus called His followers to trust and believe in God alone (John 11:25–26; 14:1, 6). Proverbs 3:5 echoes this posture: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Childlike faith rests in God’s character and not its own reasoning or strength.

Receiving the kingdom of God like a little child involves humility. Children do not pretend to be greater than they are. In Matthew 18:1–5, the disciples ask, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” Jesus brings forward a little child and answers, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven” (NLT).

Pride resists God’s rule, but humility welcomes it. Scripture tells us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6, NLT; see also 1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 3:34). Salvation and entrance into God’s kingdom belong to those who bow low enough to receive it.



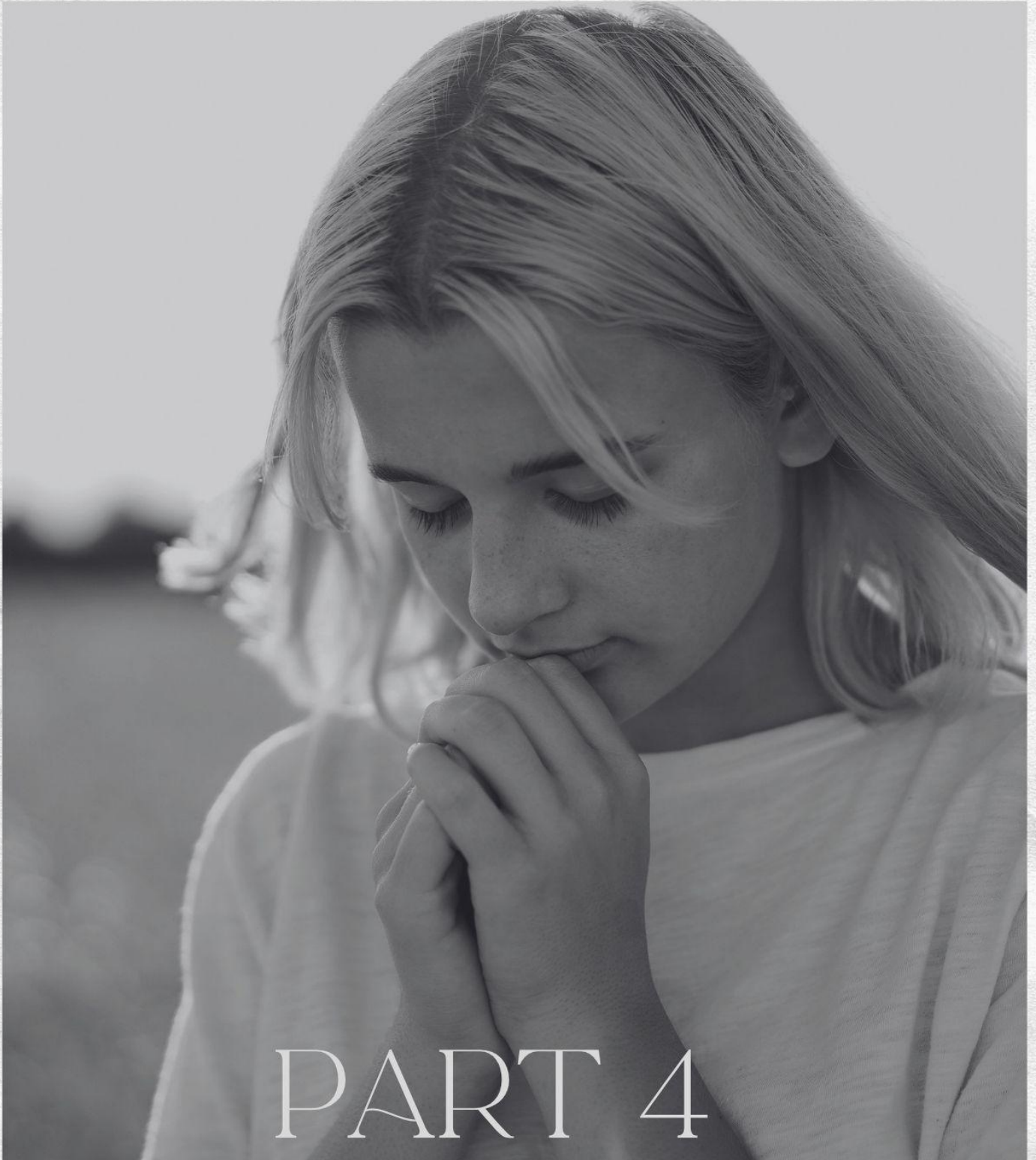


Children are typically eager to learn and ready to receive guidance. However, adults often complicate faith with skepticism or hardened hearts. God desires His followers to remain soft, teachable, and responsive (Proverbs 12:1; 15:31–32; John 14:23–24; James 1:19, 22–25). Psalm 25:9 affirms that the Lord “guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”

By blessing the little children, Jesus showed that receiving His kingdom is a gift, not a reward. The Greek word translated as “receive” (*dexētai*) in Mark 10:15 means to welcome or accept what is offered. This idea agrees with Jesus’ words in Luke 12:32: “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom” (NLT). Children do not earn gifts; they merely receive them with joy.

In Mark 10:15, Jesus invites us to lay aside our pride, self-sufficiency, and spiritual achievements, and instead come to Him with the simplicity of a little child—trusting, humble, dependent, and open. Only those who receive the kingdom of God in this way will truly enter it.

COMMUNION WITH GOD



PART 4

BY: PASTOR ED ROEBERT



GUIDELINES TO ASSIST US IN BECOMING STILL BEFORE THE LORD

1. Get alone with God in a specific place.
2. Recognise that you can control your mind! "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind..." (1 Peter 1:13)
3. You should then focus your mind on the Lord Jesus. "I have set the LORD always before me..." (Psalm 16:8). "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith," (Hebrews 12:2)
4. To assist us in focusing on Jesus we can do several things:
 - sing an appropriate worship song
 - sing in the Spirit
 - sing a spontaneous song
 - softly repeat the cry of your heart

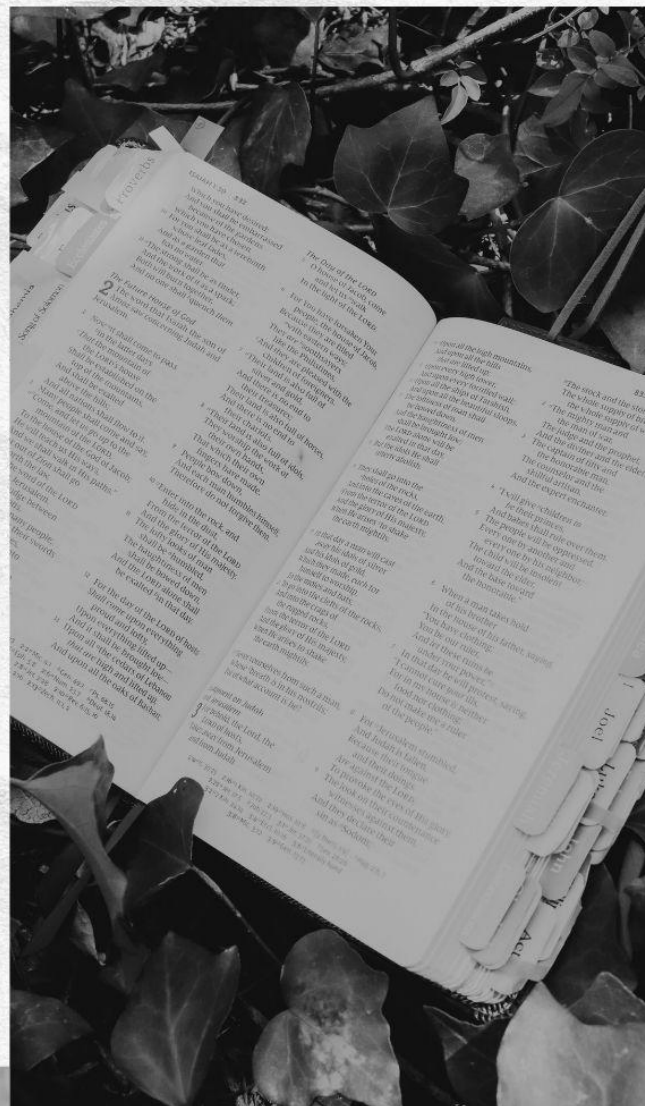
For example: "Lord I need you". "Lord, arise". "I love you Jesus". "Praise your name, Lord Jesus". "You are wonderful, Lord!"

5. Let your FAITH reach out to the Lord and on the basis of His Word start to recognise His presence. For example, say, "Thank you Lord that Your Word assures me that when I draw near to you, you will draw near to me. Thank you that you are drawing near. Welcome Lord Jesus. It's wonderful to know that you are right here with me and that I am privileged to speak to you as friend to a friend."
6. Accept that becoming still is not anything you DO, rather it is BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR DIVINE LOVER. So, love Him! Speak out your love! Enjoy Him. Thank Him for His love to you. Realise that this is what is involved in loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. (Matthew 22:37).

7. Accept as a fact that becoming still cannot be HURRIED or FORCED. Rather it must be allowed to happen. It's at this point in your stillness that God takes over and you begin to sense His active flow within you, as spontaneous thoughts begin to arise from your spirit and come up in your mind. This is how God speaks to us. These spontaneous thoughts are most often HIS VOICE. As this process takes place and dialogue is experienced you are entering the realm of the Spirit - you are experiencing what it is to be "in the Spirit" (Revelation 1:10).

8. This is the time to begin RECORDING what the Lord is saying to you - write it down. "And the LORD answered Habakkuk and said, Write the vision, and make it plain on tables (they wrote at that time on clay tables), that he may run that readeth it"(Habakkuk 1:2).

Our first attempts may be a little uncertain, but as you pursue it you will begin to become more confident. It's like starting to walk - a little wobbly at first by eventually you are able to walk with confidence.

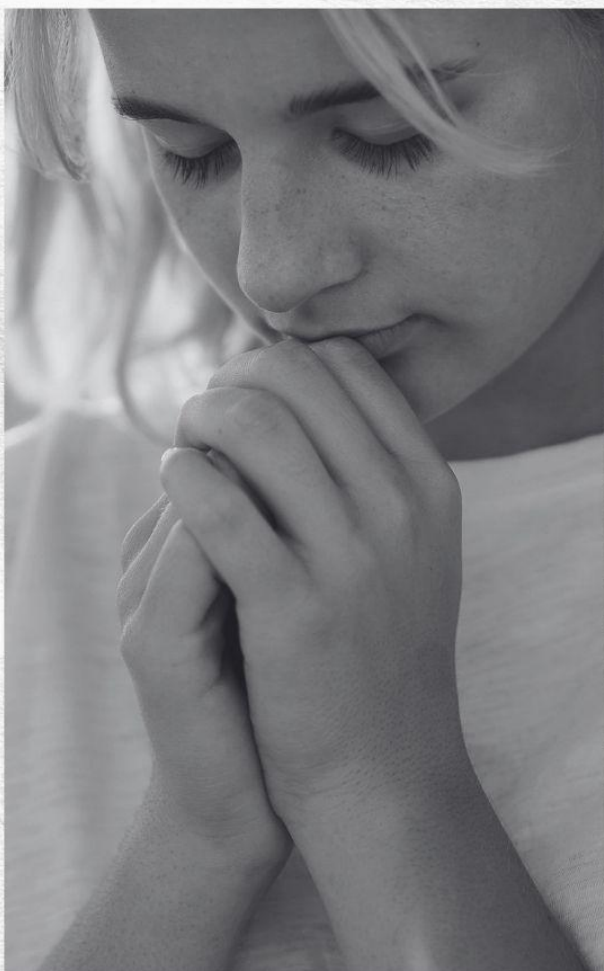


Spend some time in the next few days BECOMING STILL before the Lord. You'll need to make a decision in this regard. Decide on the place and time now and add action to your decision.

Enjoy your adventure into walking in the Spirit.

THE PLACE OF MUSIC IN BECOMING STILL

The power of music is incredible. Praise God there will be singing and music in heaven. It is interesting to note that David, the man who was anointed of God to write so many beautiful Psalms was also a musician and that often he used music to still himself or others.



There is a beautiful story in 2 Kings 3:9-25 that illustrates the use of music. The allied armies of Israel, Judah and Edom made war with Moab. They ended up in the unenviable situation of being without water. Jehoshaphat sought out a prophet to inquire of the Lord (verse 11). "But now bring me a minstrel (musician). And it came to pass when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him. And he said, THUS SAITH THE LORD, Make this valley full of ditches" (Verses 15 and 16). God then filled these ditches with water and saved the armies from extinction.

The interesting point however is the fact that Elisha made use of music to assist him in BECOMING STILL before the Lord.

The POSITIVE effect of appropriate music can be seen in the following verse: "And it came to pass when the evil spirit ...was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him" (1 Samuel 16:23).

Naturally there can also be a NEGATIVE effect on us from music. For that reason we need to be careful as to the type of music we play.

As regards music it is interesting to note that Mark Virkler, in *Communion with God*, says the following, "I discovered that singing rowdy praise songs did not relax me. Neither did singing quiet praise songs, if I was lunging emotionally at God, telling Him how much I loved Him. However, if I quietly spoke the words "I love you" as I sang quiet worship songs, I found I had entered the stage of relaxed stillness that the Lord had commanded.

Music can therefore play a very important role in our becoming still before the Lord. Maybe you could record a selection of appropriate songs (which you should change from time to time) and then play them softly as you prepare yourself for communion.





BECOMING STILL AND EASTERN RELIGIONS

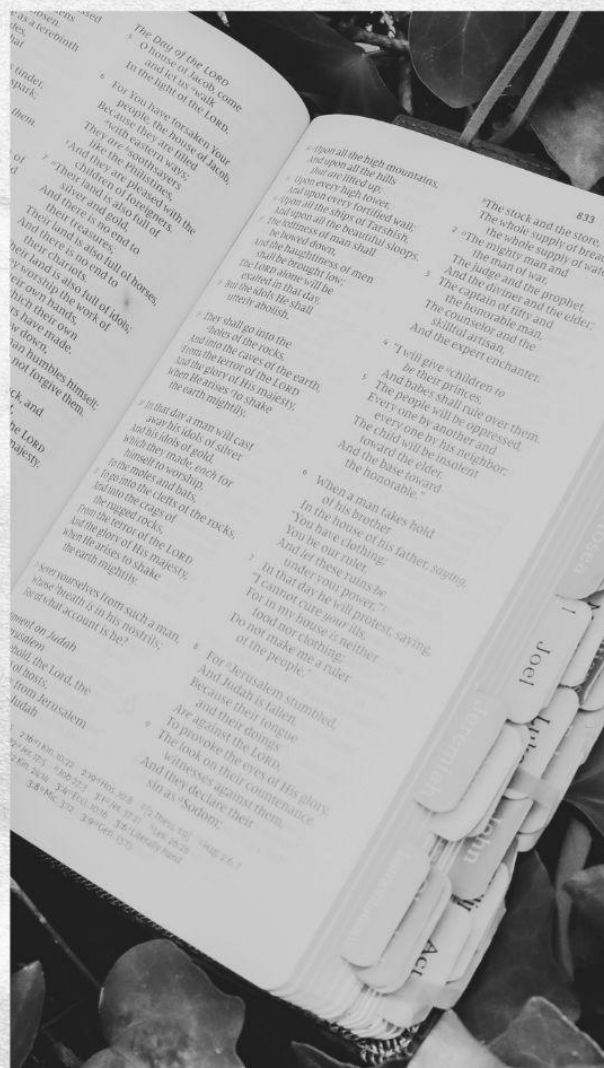
Perhaps you may be asking if becoming still is not the same as Transcendental Meditation, or as some aspects of Zen or of Yoga.

Well, there may be some small similarities but there are also distinct and definite differences.

In Eastern Religions the idea is to blank one's mind and in so doing to allow another power to take control of it. This of course results in people making contact with evil spirits and with the Evil One. We must have nothing to do with this.

But on the other hand the Bible teaches us to "Be still and know that I am God". Therefore, becoming still is a BIBLICAL CONCEPT that has been in the scriptures before ever any of these religions appeared.

Let me put it another way. If Eastern Religions approach their gods through prayer, does that mean that we should not pray? Most certainly not! We need to make sure that we pray in the right way.





The same principle applies to the practice of becoming still before God. If God says we must become still before Him, then that's what we must do.

Perhaps you will ask, But isn't there a danger? There certainly is no danger if we are directly approaching the Lord. Remember what Jesus said in Luke 11:11-13?

Luke 11:11 "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish give him a serpent?"

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Somewhere down the line we have to place our FAITH in God. He says that if we draw near to Him HE, and not a demon, will draw near to us. He says that if we come and ask for bread we will get bread. He will never give us a stone or a serpent, or a scorpion (the devil), NO! NEVER!

If we, sinful human beings know how to give good gifts to our children, can't we expect at least the same from God? Certainly we can!

So, let us not withdraw from the real just because Satan has fabricated a counterfeit. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

Inner stillness and encounter with God are God's gifts to the church. Enjoy them and be blessed - "Be still and know that I am GOD."

What is the purpose of all this? Let's summarize what we have been saying in the following way:

BECOMING STILL BEFORE GOD HELPS US TO

Get to know Him better. Prayer is not doing something but being with Someone. Only when we become one with Jesus through communion will he become an expression of Him to the world.

We do not ever intrinsically become like Jesus. But when we have gazed upon Him (Hebrews 12:2) with loving affection for so long, we become a reflection of His glory (2 Cor. 3:18), taking on His character (Galatians 5:22-23) and His power (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

As a result of this communion with Him, a union that took place with Him at the time of our conversion, now becomes evident and we are able to say, "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who lives but CHRIST LIVES IN ME." (Galatians 2:20).





Therefore we need to give serious attention to God's Word:

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!"

Assignment for the week:

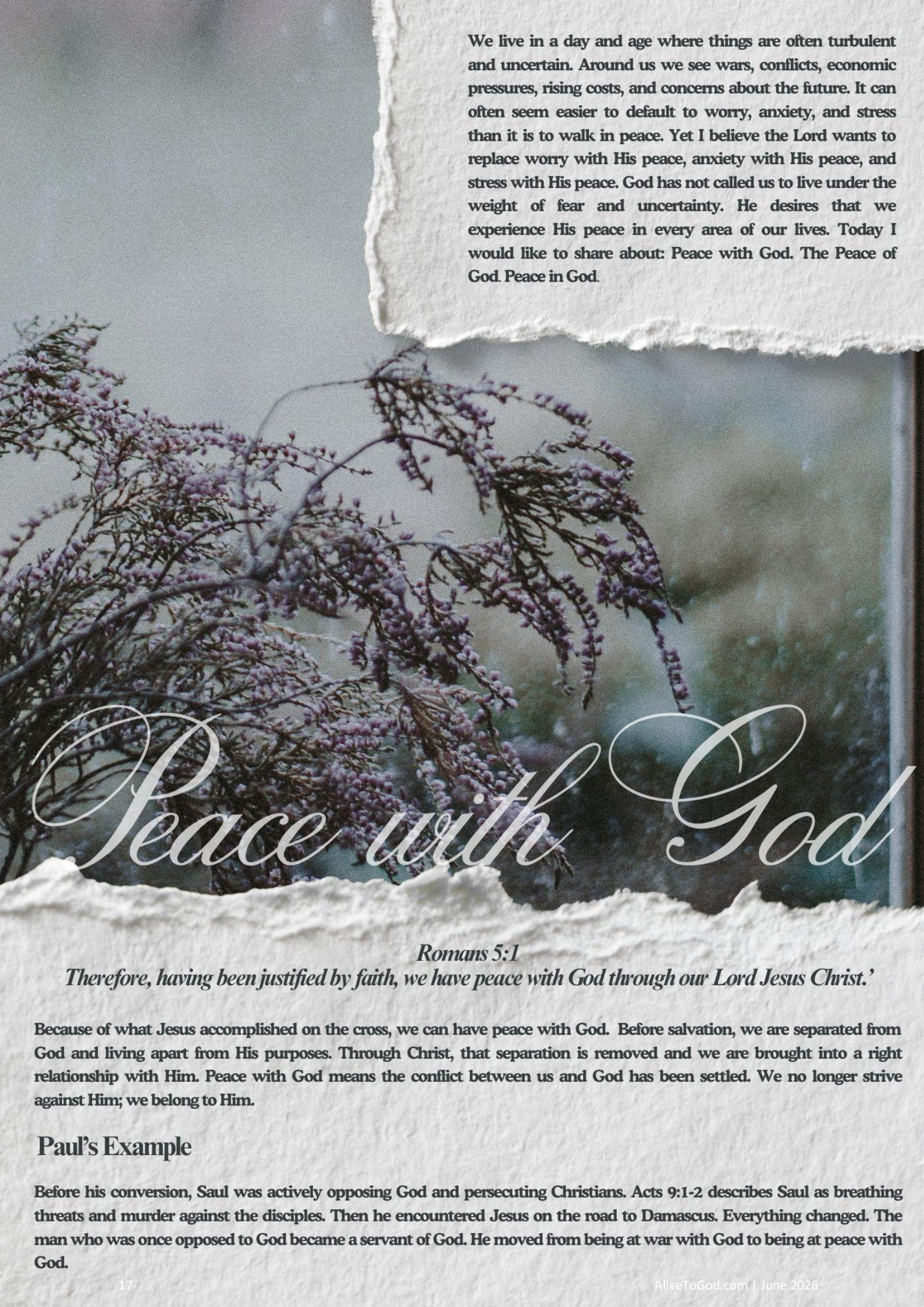
Set aside time on two or three occasions to BECOME STILL before the Lord.

PRAYER IS NOT DOING SOMETHING BUT BEING WITH SOMEONE!



Peace

BY PASTOR MICHAEL ROEBERT



We live in a day and age where things are often turbulent and uncertain. Around us we see wars, conflicts, economic pressures, rising costs, and concerns about the future. It can often seem easier to default to worry, anxiety, and stress than it is to walk in peace. Yet I believe the Lord wants to replace worry with His peace, anxiety with His peace, and stress with His peace. God has not called us to live under the weight of fear and uncertainty. He desires that we experience His peace in every area of our lives. Today I would like to share about: Peace with God. The Peace of God. Peace in God.

Peace with God

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, we can have peace with God. Before salvation, we are separated from God and living apart from His purposes. Through Christ, that separation is removed and we are brought into a right relationship with Him. Peace with God means the conflict between us and God has been settled. We no longer strive against Him; we belong to Him.

Paul's Example

Before his conversion, Saul was actively opposing God and persecuting Christians. Acts 9:1-2 describes Saul as breathing threats and murder against the disciples. Then he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. Everything changed. The man who was once opposed to God became a servant of God. He moved from being at war with God to being at peace with God.

God's Desire For Us

Acts 22:14 says:

'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.'

God wants each of us: To know His will. To see Jesus clearly. To hear His voice. God's will is His best plan and purpose for our lives.

Peace with God through salvation

Part of God's wonderful offer of salvation is peace with Him. If we have surrendered our lives to Christ, this peace is ours. If you are feeling as if there isn't peace between you and God, feel free to pray the prayer of salvation at end of this article, and you can experience this Peace with God. Send a mail to Pastor Andrew at andrew@alivetogod.com if you have prayed this prayer today, and someone at Alive to God will pray for you. Because once there is peace with God, we can begin to experience the Peace of God.

Peace of God



Philippians 4:7

'And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'

Peace is more than the absence of trouble. It is a supernatural calm and wholeness that comes from God. The Greek word for peace (eirene) carries the idea of wholeness and completeness. God's peace joins together the broken pieces of our lives.

Jesus Gives Us His Peace

John 14:27

'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.'

Notice that Jesus does not simply give peace. He gives His peace. It is not manufactured by our own efforts. It is not found through worldly methods or temporary solutions. It comes directly from God Himself.

The God of Peace

1 Thessalonians 5:23

'Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely.'

The God of peace gives His peace to His children. There is no substitute for God's peace. The world offers temporary relief. God offers lasting peace.

What Breaks Down God's Peace?

Looking Elsewhere

Jeremiah 2:13

'They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns.'

We lose peace when we look to other sources instead of God.

Trusting In Ourselves

Isaiah 26:3

'You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.'

Peace grows when trust grows.

Worrying

Philippians 4:6-7

'Do not be anxious about anything...'

Anxiety and peace cannot occupy the same throne in our hearts. Worry focuses on the problem. Prayer focuses on God.

What Builds God's Peace?

Draw Near To God

James 4:8

'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.'

The closer we draw to God, the more we experience His peace.

Trust His Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23

'Great is His faithfulness.'

God's faithfulness never changes.

Stand On His Promises

Psalms 119:165

'Those who love Your instructions have great peace.'

God's Word strengthens our faith and brings peace.

Rest In His Love

God's perfect love drives out fear. The more we understand His love, the more secure and peaceful we become.

Focus On His Unchanging Nature

Hebrews 13:8

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.'

Circumstances change. God never changes.

Peace in God

Peace with God gives us relationship. The peace of God gives us inner calm. Peace in God teaches us how to live and rest in Him.

God Is Our Refuge

Psalm 46:1

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.'

Psalm 62:8

'Trust in Him at all times... God is a refuge for us.'

When we make God our refuge, we discover deeper levels of peace.

Dwelling In His Presence

Psalm 91:1

'He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.'

God wants us to live close to Him. His presence is the place where peace grows. The closer we remain to Him, the more His peace fills our lives.

Resting In God

As we focus on God and trust Him, we learn to rest. Rest is not inactivity. Rest is confidence in God's goodness and faithfulness. We can remain peaceful even when circumstances around us are not.

Rejoicing In The Lord

Philippians 4:4-7

'Rejoice in the Lord always...'

Rejoicing shifts our focus from our problems to God's faithfulness. Thanksgiving opens the door for God's peace to flood our hearts. Prayer, gratitude, and trust all work together to strengthen peace within us.

Conclusion

God wants us to experience peace. First, peace with God through salvation. Then the peace of God that guards our hearts and minds. Finally, peace in God as we learn to make Him our refuge and resting place. The Lord does not want us controlled by fear, anxiety, or worry. He wants us to walk in His supernatural peace.

John 14:27

'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.'

May we continually look to Him, trust Him, and experience the wonderful peace that only He can give.

Prayer of Salvation

*Lord Jesus,
I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions.
There are so many good things I have not done.
There are so many sinful things I have done.
I am sorry for my sins and turn from everything I know
to be wrong.*

*I know You gave Your life on the cross for me.
Gratefully I give my life back to You.
I ask You to come into my life.*

*Come as my Saviour to cleanse me.
Come in as my Lord to control me.
Come in as my Friend to be with me,
and by Your grace, I will serve You
all of the remaining years of my life in obedience.
Thank You Lord.*

*I now acknowledge You as the One and only true Living
God.
Amen*

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We also encourage you to extend your support to others by lifting them up in prayer. It's as simple as clicking the "I PRAYED FOR THIS" button, and a notification will be sent to them, letting them know that someone is holding them in prayer.

Together, through our collective prayers and support, we can create a community filled with warmth, love, and genuine care. Thank you for being a part of it!

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