

Lesson 11

The Pathway of Peace

Opening Verse: **Luke 1:79**

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way (PATHWAY or LIFESTYLE) of peace.

Introduction:

Apostle Paul considered peace as one of the most important elements in a Christian's life for it defines true spirituality. And as Zacharias was prophesying about his son, John, who was preparing the way for the Messiah, he was telling about the things that Messiah was going to do and the last one was about TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE. So Jesus came to guide our feet into the LIFESTYLE of PEACE.

What is PEACE?

Peace is a very significant feeling and impression from God, as it guards and protects our hearts and minds **to remain in the realm of His Spirit.**

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Peace **keeps our minds and hearts secure** in Christ.
- Peace keeps us CONNECTED with God.
- Peace is our ***spiritual gauge***: For the presence of God's peace in us affirms whenever we are CONNECTED with God's Spirit. And the lack or absence of God's peace denotes when we have DISCONNECTED with God or that something has interrupted our connection with Him – whether it was caused by our flesh or an attack from the enemy.
- The Peace of God is very crucial as it allows us to **flow in the Spirit and to be led by the Spirit.**

NOTES

The Power of Peace over our Minds and Hearts:

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on thee: Because he trusteth in thee.

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: And nothing shall offend them.

Satan dreads how much power that PEACE has upon our HEART and MIND and that's why 99% of his efforts is to undermine our peace!

Common Attacks of the Enemy to Thwart our Peace:

1. **OFFENSES** – if the enemy can get us to be angry or upset with one another then he has succeeded in removing our peace. And we need to be quick to forgive because unforgiveness also removes the covering of His blood over our own sins.

Colossians 3:13

Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. (MSG)

2. **FEAR** – the enemy uses this regarding the things that matter to us (our cares). That's why it is important to always **CAST OUR CARES** unto the Lord (*1 Peter 5:7*). But this casting must involve us **TRUSTING** in the Lord.

TRUST = NO FEAR

Fear causes us to need to be in control

John 14:27 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.**

World's Peace = Absence of Trouble

God's Peace = Beyond our understanding, and in spite of the circumstances

The Apostle Paul has given us some powerful insights on dealing with the **FEAR OF LOSING**. These principles can apply to any type of loss, whether it be the loss of a love one, the loss of your health, reputation, possessions, job or anything of value to you.

How to Deal with the Fear of Losing

1. Deal with your losses in the PAST.

Philippians 3:13

¹³ *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind**, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

- Let go of the past and keep it buried. For as long as you are grieving (feeling sorry for yourself) over your losses, you can't forget your past.
- God promises that He will give comfort to all who mourn (Matt. 5:4).

Philippians 3:7 *But what things were gain to me, those I counted (CONSIDERD IT ALL, CAME TO A CONCLUSION) loss for Christ.*

- The only way that you can become finally free from the grief of the losses in your past is to understand **THAT IT WAS YOUR LOSSES THAT HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO GOD**: bringing you to the end of yourself so that you realize your need for God.
- Product of those losses = **the impact they had on GETTING ME CLOSER TO JESUS.**
- Realizing that what I have GAINED as a result of the LOSSES = is **GREATER** than the gain of KEEPING what I lost.

The Power of LOSING things "FOR" Christ:

1 Peter 4:1-2

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

(AMPC) 1 SO, SINCE Christ suffered in the flesh for us, for you, arm yourselves with the same thought and purpose [patiently to suffer rather than fail to please God]. For whoever has suffered in the flesh [having the mind of Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [has stopped pleasing himself and the world, and pleases God],

2 So that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living by [*his*] human appetites and desires, but [*he lives*] for what God wills.

- This says that when you go through very difficult times in your flesh to satisfy God's will – **IT TAKES AWAY THE DESIRE TO SIN!!! IT TAKES AWAY LUST!!!**
- So Paul had to make a decision about the things that he has lost (that were gain to him). He could either continue to grieve over them and never get over that grief and never go forward from there OR HE COULD GIVE THEM TO CHRIST – LET THEM GO and BE FREE!!! And HAVE a FUTURE!

2. Learn how to deal with the PRESENT which has an effect on the FUTURE.

Philippians 3:8 *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

- Paul had not lost everything but he concluded it as LOST so that it won't be used against him by the adversary. So that whatever he possessed – He surrendered it to God.
- Giving it to God = **not owning** anything. Everything I've got was loaned to me and if He wants it back, I be able to say – *Blessed be the name of the Lord!*
- For whatever you're hanging on to and whatever you're holding on to – trying to make God work out YOUR way according to your plan **is an open door for the adversary to put FEAR in there and steal your peace!**
- If everything I have lost, I've given that away for Christ, **then what would happen IF I GAVE EVERYTHING I COULD LOSE IN ADVANCE? Then the devil CAN'T THREATEN ME WITH WHAT I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP!!!**

Trusting in the Father

- By trusting in His LOVE for you

1 John 4:18 *There is **no fear in love**; but **perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

- By trusting in His Rhema that gives you faith

Romans 10:17 *So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

- By Believing that **GOD IS IN CONTROL** all the time.

Knowing that whatever happens to you is what God allows, and whatever God allows to happen to you is His willful direction for you.

- This involves God doing what He knows is BEST for man and not necessarily what man desires.

TRUST = Giving Up Your Control

- Results into TRUE LIBERTY because the devil has NO influence over you when you have no need to control things! There's NO pressure!!
- NOT Giving up Control = PRESSURE = FRUSTRATION = WEARINESS! That's the result of controlling things.

Part of my Daily Armor

Ephesians 6:11, 14-15

¹¹ *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (METHODS) of the devil. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet **shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**;*

- Feet "SHOD" = is something that you do to yourself; it is preparing to EQUIP your feet with peace.
- Unlike all the other pieces of armor, the shoes of peace requires preparation. It entails a longer process.

The armor of God is a complete package as you need every part of it because it works together as a whole. And if you ever fail to wear your shoes of peace – you’ve already lost the battle! Because **your feet are your foundation for battle!**

Shoes of Peace – insulate us from the roads of life with their obstacles. They are our spiritual boots that constitute our foundation or “traction” in battle. They are the source of our stability in conflict so that we can keep standing and be always ready for battle! The enemy is threatened by our peace because our peace **KEEPS US STANDING on our feet!**

Romans 16:20 *And the God of **peace shall bruise Satan under your feet** shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Luke 10:19 *Behold, I give unto you **power to tread** on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Secure Righteousness BEFORE Peace

Ephesians 6:14-15

¹⁴*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**; ¹⁵And your feet **shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**;*

- It is necessary to wear our **BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS** before we put on our Shoes of Peace.
- **Repent and then believe that you receive it by faith.**
- Our breastplate needs to be **SECURE** because it’s the **Working of RIGHTEOUSNESS** that opens the door for PEACE!

Isaiah 32:17 *And the work of righteousness shall be peace; And the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.*

Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

- God's **Mercy & Righteousness** work against the spirit of **CONDEMNATION** that attempts to undermine our faith in grace.
- Condemnation = when we doubt the covering of God's blood over us because we feel unworthy of it.
- But MERCY is not about our performance anyway but is all about God's gift of love that results into not giving us the judgment that we deserve.
- **Thus, we need the covering of God's Mercy and Righteousness** every day - to keep us secure in our faith and grace.

Our Preparation of Peace = Casting Our Cares

1 Peter 5:5-7

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

CARE = refers to anything that you care about, no matter how big or small.

- God wants you to cast **ALL** your cares upon him, because he doesn't want you to be carrying any load.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ **Be careful for nothing**; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Being CAREFUL For Nothing = having no care for anything, no anxiety, no worry over anything

NOTHING = NOT EVEN ONE THING

It is God's will for us not even to care for one thing!
Because the ABSENCE of care is what brings peace!

When you Cast your Cares unto the Lord:

- You are surrendering your burdens to God and trusting Him to take care of it.
- You are allowing God to carry the burdens for you, in your place.
- It's an act of humility wherein you are **giving up your will** and **GIVING UP COMPLETE CONTROL TO GOD.**
- It is when we allow God to carry FOR us and not for us to carry it anymore
- You cast EVERYTHING you "care about" so that it won't AFFECT your will!
- When you hold on to my own burdens – you want control! And that is PRIDE!
- And when you HOLD ON to your Care and seek to control it = that Undermines your peace!
- **PEACE** = having NO disturbance inside of you. **You live your life refusing to allow any pressure in your spirit.**

Sample Prayer:

Lord, I cast all my cares to you today; I cast unto you all of my responsibilities, my personal needs, my health, my finances, the needs of my family, the needs of my church, etc. I choose to release my control over these things, and I choose not to be worried about these things, as I trust in You, as my Father and my Provider. Amen.

We wear our complete armor during the last part of RELATIONAL PRAYER to prepare us for Ministry prayer. Then when we get a release from God – we end our Ministry prayer BUT we don't disconnect from God. We remain in a "spirit of prayer" throughout the day and we have the PEACE in our spirit that confirms our connection with God throughout the day.

Anytime that we feel a lack or absence of peace – that's our signal that there is something hindering our connection with God. In order to determine and fix whatever is hindering our peace, we can use this "Self-Check" as our guide ...

SELF-CHECK: To Maintain God's Peace in Us

1. **FIRST: Are there any grudges that I have not forgiven?**
2. **SECOND: Is there any sin that I have not repented of?**
3. **THIRD: Have I cast all my cares on the Lord and let go of control of everything?**
(Am I worried about something? Or am I feeling the pressure to control or fix something?)
4. **FOURTH: Have I surrendered and submitted all of my will to God today?**
(Am I still trying to control something?)

If you still have a lack of peace after you dealt with all the questions – that means that it's an attack from the enemy. Then it's time to CONFRONT it and bind it in Jesus name.

Follow Your Peace**Colossians 3:15**

¹⁵ And let (ALLOW, PERMIT, MAKE A CHOICE) the peace of God rule (TO BE YOUR EMPIRE, your ARBITRATOR, your DECISION-MAKER) in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Nobody gets a Word of God for everything. So when you are seeking for the will of God and you don't have a Rhema or Word from God – **let the peace of God rule, being the decision maker in your hearts.**

To follow your peace, the presence of peace in your decision or action confirms that it is God's will, and the absence of peace in your decision or action confirms that it is not God's will.

But before peace can ever rule, it is always crucial to establish God's peace in you.

Seek Peace and Pursue It

1 Peter 3:11 *Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him **seek** (THE DEGREE OF DETERMINATION THAT YOU COME TO IN YOUR SPIRIT TO DO SOMETHING; it's not talking about the action but the depth of determination that you come to; how far are you willing to go to have something) **peace**, and ensue it (PURSUE IT).*

- The word SEEK implies that you should be willing to go through any leap to have something.
- The word PURSUE is not a repetition of seeking but it is WHAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY doing. One talks about your determination or decision, the other one talks about your actions.
- **Make up your mind, that you're going to have peace no matter what it costs you AND THEN follow through on it.**
- And pursue peace like it's the only thing in life that mattered.
- Because to have peace, I've got to have peace with **God**, I've got to be at peace with **others**, I've got to be at peace with **myself**, and then I've got to be at peace with **my circumstances** - with my past, present and future circumstances. For I can't allow any of that to live inside of me. I've got to give it up for God.

In Conclusion:

The PATHWAY of PEACE is a daily lifestyle of seeking and pursuing God's peace, of endeavoring to remove every hindrance of peace, of living victoriously in your mind and heart from the enemy's influence, and of experiencing the liberty and unmeasurable reward of being continually connected with the Source of life.