

# Peace Without Fear

## Experiencing God's Peace In A Time Of Fear

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*1 Thessalonians 5:23*— Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **I. The Introduction To The God of Peace And To The Peace Of God**

You can enjoy perfect peace in the presence of the LORD. Peace is defined as the presence and experience of right relationships. Spiritually, faith gives to the believer the peace of God.

*Luke 8:48* — And He [Jesus] said to her [the ill woman], “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

**God is the source of all peace. His peace surpasses human comprehension. It is Jesus the Messiah Who brings this peace to our hearts and minds.**

*Philippians 4:6-7* — 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Jesus' peace removes fear— all the fears of life, all the troubles that our mind deals with—**

*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.

**This peace is a fruit of the Spirit that helps to develop the believer's character to become Christ-like and like Christ.**

*Galatians 5:22-23* — 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

The Hebrew word for 'peace' is 'Shalom'. Shalom means: health, wellness, wholeness, security, safety, success, prosperity, comfort, salvation and peace. This is God's Shalom!

## II. The God Of Peace

The Text, I Thessalonians 5:23, plainly teaches that the LORD is the God of peace. God Himself in Jesus, the Messiah, became our peace.

*Ephesians 2:13-14— 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.*

Those who were 'far off' are the Gentiles. The Shed Blood of Jesus, cleansing believers from their sins, provides peace between God and mankind. The faith of the believer trusting in the completed work of Jesus, the Messiah, on the cross and His glorious, triumphant Resurrection from the dead, results in a right relationship with the LORD.

This peace through Jesus, the Messiah, our LORD, was foretold in the Hebrew Bible.

### A) Peace was predicted through the Messiah and in His Messianic Kingdom.

#### *Isaiah 9:6-7*

6 *For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

7 *Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

### B) Peace was promised to be provided by the Messiah, the Desire of All Nations, on the Temple Mountain.

*Haggai 2:6-9— 6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. 8 "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts. 9 "The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts."*

The Hebrew expression 'the Desire of All Nations' is a Messianic title. The glory of the Second Temple of the Jews would be greater than that of the Solomonic Temple because God Himself in human form of Jesus, the Messiah, would come to the Second Temple of the Jews. The highest peak of the Temple Mountain is Skull Hill where Jesus was crucified— "In this place I will give/establish peace."

**Psalm 85:8-10**

- 8 *I will hear what God the LORD will speak,  
For He will speak peace  
To His people and to His saints;  
But let them not turn back to folly.*
- 9 *Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
That glory may dwell in our land.*
- 10 *Mercy and truth have met together;  
Righteousness and peace have kissed.*

**C) This peace is to be announced by believers to others.**

*Isaiah 52:7— How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

*Romans 10:11-15— 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:*

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

Every believer has opportunities to tell others about the God of peace and the peace which they can have with God. The wicked do not know the God of peace of the peace of God.

*Isaiah 59:8— The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.*

*Isaiah 48:22— "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."*

*Isaiah 57:2— There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."*

When something is repeated twice, according to Hebrew thought, it is a very important matter to consider. All around us are people that we can witness to who do not know the God of peace or the peace of God. We are the LORD's witnesses to bring to them the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, our LORD. In a time of crisis, think of the fear they must have when they have no personal relationship with the LORD.

### **III. The Peace With God**

God Himself is the cause of spiritual peace.

*Psalm 29:11* —The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

*Isaiah 26:12* —LORD, You will establish peace for us, For You have also done all our works in us.

There are four great truths regarding the peace which the LORD brings to believers.

#### **A) Peace comes through Jesus' atonement.**

*Isaiah 53:5* —But He [the Messiah] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

The atonement solves the problem between the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man. The Shed Blood of Jesus on the cross became the solution.

#### **B) Peace results from reconciliation.**

*Colossians 1:19-23*—19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Reconciliation is the means by which sinners are brought into a state of grace with God, after mutual estrangement or enmity.

**C) Peace is a product of justification.**

*Romans 5:1-2—1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

'To be justified' means 'to be declared righteous'. This justification is the result of faith in Jesus' atonement in our behalf. Our sins were imputed to Jesus and He suffered that punishment. Through faith, Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us. That's justification.

**D) Peace is obtained by faith.**

*Isaiah 26:3 —You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Faith is a gift of God which comes through the reading or hearing of the Word of God, cf., Romans 10:17.

**E) Peace is to rule in the hearts of believers**

*Colossians 3:15 —And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Because believers know the God of peace and have peace with God, they are encouraged to live in peace and to pursue peace.

*II Corinthians 13:11—Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

*II Timothy 2:22—Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

*Psalms 34:11-16—11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

## F) The God Of Peace Sanctifies His People

This God of peace, Who gives us the peace of God, in our Text, I Thessalonians 5:23, does two more works in the life of the believer—

- He sanctifies us.
- He preserves us.

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## IVa. Sanctification means to set apart from.

'To sanctify' means 'to set apart from' the world. This world is not our home; for our citizenship is in Heaven.

### A) We have citizenship in Heaven.

*Philippians 3:20-21—20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

### B) We are not to be conformed to this world.

*Romans 12:1-2—1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

### C) We are not to love the world.

*I John 2:15-17—15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

## **IVb. Sanctification means to set aside for.**

Also 'to sanctify' means 'to set aside for' the service of the LORD. If we are set aside for the service of the LORD through Jesus' Messianic Redemption, then what does the LORD require of us?

*Deuteronomy 10:12* —“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Here are some life principles which help us to understand how to live our lives for the LORD.**

### **1) Fear the LORD your God.**

*'To fear' in Hebrew thought means 'to honor,' 'to show respect' and 'to stand in awe of.'*

### **2) Walk in all His ways.**

*Jesus taught many principles for righteous living in the Gospel-Records. We need to study this teaching and to apply His teaching of life principles to life.*

*Matthew 7:12*—Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

### **3) Love Him.**

*Here we think of the Great Commandment of Judaism where we are instructed to love the LORD with all of our being.*

*Deuteronomy 6:5*—You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

### **4) Serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

*The LORD has purpose for your life and my life. That's God's will for us. It is important that we use the LORD's talents that He has given us and find our spiritual gift(s) and serve the LORD accordingly. Living a life unto the LORD is living a life of service. Additional life principles are given to us in the most quoted Old Testament passage:*

*Micah 6:8*—He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

***Here the LORD requires three other life principles.***

**A) To do justly.**

This life principle encourages us to do what is right, i.e., to live a righteous life. We are challenged to live by the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule and other life principles which Jesus taught.

**B) To love mercy.**

We are to appreciate the LORD's covenant love and loyalty. The Hebrew word translated 'mercy' is *chesed*. It is the LORD's covenant love. It is an everlasting love. It is lovingkindness.

*Jeremiah 31:3—The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

Mercy is the LORD helping those who can't help themselves. He does that through His unconditional covenants which provide Messianic redemption and restoration.

**C) To walk humbly with your God.**

The humble have repented of their sins and have turned to the LORD and are serving the LORD.

*1 Peter 5:5-6 —5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

Sanctification/Holiness is the LORD working in your life to do these seven life principles as you are being set apart from the world and are being set aside to serve the LORD.

## **V. The God Of Peace Preserves His People.**

The last portion of the Biblical Text of I Thessalonians 5:23 is the preservation of the believer's spirit, soul and body. We are without blame because of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus' Shed Blood. The LORD created us as a three-fold human being— spirit, soul and body.

*Genesis 2:7 —And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath [Hebrew, spirit] of life; and man became a living being [Hebrew, living soul].*

The LORD's work is preserving those who trust in Him through the trials and troubles of life. God's work of preservation is keeping His people safe from harm.

*Psalm 16:1—Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.*

*Psalm 97:10 —You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.*

*Psalm 145:20—The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.*

In the Biblical Text, I Thessalonians 5:23, the LORD promises to sanctify His People completely and to preserve His People without blame until Jesus returns for His Bride, the Church. In John 14:1-3, Jesus promised that He would return for every believer.

*John 14:1-3— 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

In I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and in I Corinthians 15:51-57, the Apostle Paul gives the details on how Jesus will return for the Church Age believers.

*I Thessalonians 4:13-18— 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

*1 Corinthians 15:51-57— 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

55 “O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

These great Biblical promises mean that we can live in the LORD’s peace without fear until Jesus returns. The great news is that Jesus is coming soon!

## **VI. The God Of Peace Text In Summary.**

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 —Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**From the Biblical Text of 1 Thessalonians 5:23, we can learn six great truths:**

- 1) The God of the Bible is fundamentally a God of peace.**
- 2) The LORD wants us to experience the peace of God which Jesus won for us through the Messianic redemption.**
- 3) God’s peace will crush the demonic forces who want to bring fear into our lives through crisis events.**
- 4) A life lived for Jesus is grounded in His peace. That life is a life lived in Jesus’ victory.**
- 5) God’s plan is that His peace would make us more like Jesus (sanctification).**
- 6) God’s plan is that His peace would preserve (keep us from evil and evil from us) us— spirit, soul and body— until Jesus returns.**

*Psalm 121:7-8 —7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.*