

# *SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE*

## *Perfect Peace, Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:6-9*

### **The Promise of Perfect Peace**

**Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) <sup>3</sup> “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, ...”**

- Through the prophet Isaiah, God makes a powerful promise to the people of God; He will *keep* us in *perfect peace*
- God is saying that perfect peace can *obtained* and *maintained*
- What is perfect peace?
- *Perfect peace* is an inward peace, outward peace, peace with God, peace of conscience, peace at all times, under all events
- Perfect peace could be understood as “double peace”, it’s peace on top of peace
- *Perfect peace* is not the elimination of all problems, struggles, and issues, in our lives; it is *maintaining* spiritual peace under all circumstances
- Perfect peace means to live in such harmony with God that you are assured and certain God will take care of you and whatever situation you face
- God’s perfect peace will:
  - God will deliver you through problems, hardships, sicknesses and trouble
  - Puts you at rest, contentment and satisfaction about things going on in your life
  - ***Romans 8:31 (KJV) 31 “... If God be for us, who can be against us?”***
  - God’s perfect peace will deliver through all the conflicts, trials, conflicts and temptations you will face in life
  - Keeps you from making rash decisions
- God can promise us perfect peace because He *alone* is the source and maintainer of our peace
- What’s keeping you from *consistently enjoying* God’s promise of perfect peace?
- We’re allowing issues in our lives to steal the peace God promised.
  - *Worry*
  - *Fear*
  - *Regrets*
  - *Schedule*
  - *The devil*

### **Who Has Perfect Peace?**

**Isaiah 26:3-4 (KJV) <sup>3</sup> Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.**

- The believer who will be *kept* in perfect peace is the believer that has their mind *stayed* on the Lord
- To have our minds *stayed* on the Lord is to have our minds *fixed, set, settled upon, and steadfast* on the Lord
- To be kept in perfect peace is a matter of *the mind*:
  - We are to love God with all our mind; Matthew 22:37
  - We are transformed by the renewing of our mind; Romans 12:2
  - We can have the mind of Christ, 1 Corinthians 2:16
  - We are not set our minds on earthly things; Philippians 3:19
  - We are to set our mind on things above, Colossians 3:2
- When our minds are stayed on God; they are sustained, upheld, or are leaning on God

## *SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE*

### *Perfect Peace, Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:6-9*

- To have perfect peace, we can't lean on, be sustained by, or depend on God "sometimes", it must be *all the time*
- If our minds are stayed on ourselves, our problems, or the problem people in our lives, perfect peace is impossible
- You can only have perfect peace when *you* keep your mind stayed on God
- You keep your mind stayed on God because you trust Him
- When we trust in the Lord, we depend on Him and not our understanding **Proverbs 3:5 (KJV) 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.**
- If we trust in the Lord, it will manifest in our *actions*, but it *starts* in our minds
- Because we have the promise of perfect peace (vs. 3), we are strongly encouraged to *trust in the Lord forever* (vs.4) and receive the promise of perfect peace
- The reason why we are to trust in the Lord forever because He is *everlasting strength*, our Rock
- When we trust God as our everlasting strength; He is our Rock that provides a solid foundation, security, support, and a defense against all the trials and temptations of life

#### ***How to Live in God's Promise of Perfect Peace***

***Stop Worrying and Start Praying Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. [7] And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***

- Paul, writing to the Philippians told them to be careful for nothing
- The word "careful" means to be anxious, nervous, fretful, panicky, and worried
- The cares of this world "choke off" or "block" the Word
- Worry and anxiety come from two areas of our lives; wrong *feelings* and wrong *thinking*
- Instead of worrying and fretting about everything, you must pray about everything
- Everything that happens in our lives is an appropriate subject for prayer
- Prayer about everything because every area of your life God is concerned about every area of your life
- Paul gives us four ways to pray:
  1. *Prayer* – A general word for making our requests known to God. It suggests *adoration, devotion, and worship.*
  2. *Supplication* – Is sincere and earnest plea to God about your situation. You are sharing with God what you're dealing with
  3. *Thanksgiving* - Is showing appreciation to God for the answer *in advance* of the answer!
  4. *Requests* – Are specific and definite requests; our praying is not to be general, but specific
- We are to take ***everything*** to God in prayer
- Don't put a limit on God by praying only about the "crisis's" of life
- The moment anxiety, worry, fear, etc. begins to consume your thoughts, start praying!
- As we pray, God will begin to *infuse* our lives with His peace and His presence
- Through prayer, God is giving us peace to walk through and conquer any problem, trial, temptation, and the worry, anxiety associated with it
- The *peace of God* means to be bound, joined or woven together
- The peace of God passes all understanding, it goes beyond what we can ask or think

## *SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE*

### *Perfect Peace, Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:6-9*

- Peace *keeps* our hearts and minds; it serves as a “guard” or a peacekeeper for our hearts and minds
  - When people seem to give up when problems arise, it often is connected to an absence of the peace of God in their life.
- The peace of God then act as a **guard** for their **hearts and minds**.

***Think on The Right Things [8] Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

- To experience God’s perfect peace, we must pray, and we must also *change* our thoughts
- If our minds focused on the things of this world and the flesh, our actions are going to be based on those thoughts
- That kind of thinking leads to worry and restlessness
- When we accepted Jesus, our mind was renewed by the Spirit of God ***Romans 12:2 (KJV)***  
***2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***
- We must change our thinking to whatever is:
  - *True*
  - *Honest and just*
  - *Pure, lovely, and of a good report*
  - *Virtuous and praiseworthy*
- Think on these things; meditate, concentrate, focus on these things
- We must make a conscious choice about what we allow in our minds
- How do we change our thinking? By pouring in the word of God every day
- The word of God will serve as a monitor for “wrong thinking” ***Psalms 119:165 (KJV) 165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. (I.e., make them stumble)***

***The God of Peace Will Be with You[9] Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.***

- The peace of God comes *with practice*; how we live on a regular basis
- Paul is saying he has lived as example before the Philippians
- Paul is saying to the Philippians all that that they have learned, received, heard, and saw personally in his life, they are to put into practice
- It’s not enough to know godly living leads to peace, eliminates worry, anxiety and pleases God; we must live it!
- Keep doing what you learned and received
- When we live this way the “God of peace” will be with us
- No worries or anxiety, just rest in the peace and presence of God!