

Dimension of Peace



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Isaiah 43:2-4

² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

⁴ Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

(KJV)

Peace is good and needful, whether to an individual or to a society. The presence of peace is to be cherished above having riches without peace. May you not have the kind of wealth that would take away your peace in Jesus' Name. There is a dimension of peace I refer to as environmental peace: this has to do with physical security challenges such as is being grappled with in Nigeria - terrorism in the north, kidnapping and armed robbery all over the place.

The truth is, environmental peace has a way of affecting the peace of mind of individuals. Glory to God, Jesus our Lord goes by the title "Prince of Peace". What this connotes is that He is the controller, the giver

and the One who sustains and nourishes peace in man. He controls all dimensions of peace possible – be it environmental, in the mind or any other. Lack of peace brings fear, confusion, and leads into bondage. No vision, development or progress is made where there is no peace.

The highest level of peace a man needs to attain is peace with God. This is why no one can boast of security except by coming to Jesus. When you come to Jesus – the author of peace, He dwells in you with His peace. He will keep kidnappers, armed robbers and assassins away from you, thus making you to dwell in peace environmentally. Your mind will be at peace also. You must however continue to love and trust Him with all your heart and resources. Psalm 91:1 says **“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”**. Psalm 125:2 also says **“As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even forever”**.

These are the words of the Lord that cannot lie. One limiting problem is that some children of God are ignorant of His promises. We need to stand on His word, claim it, pray it and confess it. It is His plan that we should be delivered from our enemies so that we may serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives (Luke 1:74-75 **“That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In**

holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life”). Whatever negates that plan must not be accommodated.

Although there are different dimensions of peace, the highest level of peace a man attain is peace with God through Jesus Christ. Know this however: the fact that you are a child of God and love God does not necessarily imply you will not have problems. A fearful situation automatically erodes peace of mind unless if as a child of God you put your trust in Him (**Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee”).**

The character flaws of a Christian can be detrimental to the flourishing of the peace given by our Lord Jesus Christ. One character flaw top on this list is bitterness. Bitterness can grow and even take root in a heart. The root of bitterness stops the children of God from enjoying the peace of God. While the root of bitterness in the heart of an individual will affect other people around, a big chunk of the adverse effect of this evil root is on the individual harbouring it. The root of bitterness in a heart creates room for hatred, envy and anger; it is undoubtedly a harbinger of un-forgiveness. It also makes for unhappiness. The Phrase “root of bitterness”. It results in bitter experiences, smothering joy and peace. How does it originates? It comes when one feels unfairly treated by another person or an organization. It comes from a

feeling of being injured whether physically, emotionally or otherwise.

For instance, a sister in courtship that is jilted, a spouse that is cheated upon by his/her partner, an employee that is short-changed, a case of great disappointment such that high hopes were dashed, death of a loved one, case of rape and others. All these are negative experiences that no one would desire, and I pray you will never experience anything of these sorts in Jesus' Name. In case you are grappling with the root of bitterness resulting from whatever previous experiences you've had, please note that it is not in your best interest to keep it. Bitterness eats up its host; it affects the physical well-being of an individual, as well as causing a strained relationship with God.

There was a man whose wife died some time ago, leaving behind an only daughter with a striking resemblance to the mother. The daughter was the only existing consolation to this man. This lady's husband turned out to be something else, maltreating the lady to the point of threatening her life. The root of bitterness that sprang up in the lady's father resulted in him becoming swollen, defying all medical care. He only became alright after forgiving his son-in-law. Check your heart to ensure no bitterness is taking root there. If there is any trace of it, let go of it and pray for the healing of your soul.

Isaiah 48:18-19 "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and

thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me”.

If you desire to combine long life with pleasurable days, you must keep your tongue from evil, do good, and depart from evil. You must seek peace and pursue it. This means that wherever there is a conflict, you must do everything in your power to install peace. You must vigorously follow after peace. Proverbs 16:7 says, **“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”** From this scripture, we see that there is a link between our relationship with God and the type, duration and extent of our peace. Isaiah 9:6 calls Jesus the Prince of Peace. In other words, Jesus is the manufacturer and true custodian of peace. There is no way you can enjoy lasting peace without first pleasing Him. What kind of peace are you enjoying? The peace that you have is a reflection of your relationship with the Prince of Peace. If you please Him, He can settle the conflicts that exist between you and your enemies.

If you want to settle the conflict between you and your enemies or even between you and your loved ones, yet you keep the Prince of Peace at a distance, then you are not yet ready for settlement. **Isaiah 48:18**

“O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea”.

From this scripture, we see that total obedience to God is one major way to please God and secure peace. Also from this scripture, peace is likened to a river. This implies that peace flows. It is something that other people can draw from. Unfortunately, the peace that some people have is not enough for them, to talk less of extending it to others. God wants to give you peace like a river so that many troubled souls can contact you and find peace. Do you have peace? Can your peace calm the stormy situations of others? Does your peace flow to others? How is your relationship with God? Whatever the situation, it can be better. Improve in your obedience to God and see things change in your favour.

There is nothing tangible that can be achieved in an organisation, family or mind without a peaceful atmosphere. This is why when the world was characterized with chaos in Genesis 1:1-3 **“In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”**, the first thing God did was to restore peace to the chaotic world. I pray

that the peace of God will be your portion today in Jesus' Name.

There are factors that can guarantee peace in the life of an individual, particularly a child of God. One of them is contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6&10 says that: **"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows".**

Many people lack peace because they are not contented with what they have. They dabble into some nefarious activities in search of the material things of this world which lead to stress related diseases. We must beware not to run after the material things of this world which do not bring satisfaction, or those things that attract undue responsibilities, or those things that hurt when they have flown away. Also, avoid the abuse of things which bring discomfort like piles or stomach aches and other illnesses to your body (Proverbs 25:16 "Hast thou found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it"). How do you cultivate contentment? Contentment is developed when you endeavour to enjoy the present blessings of God in your life and give Him glory for such benefits

Ecclesiastes 5: 18-19 "Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth

him: for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God". & Psalm 103:1-5 "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's".

Other truths about having peace are revealed in this passage: One of such truths is that, to have the peace of God, you have to be moderate in your lifestyle without hypocrisy **Philippians 4:5-6 "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God"**. Another is: do not be anxious for anything, or else you will lose your God-given peace. How then do you survive in a competitive world where the essential things of life are scarce? The next truth answers this: make your request known to God. He is Jehovah Jireh, the Great provider. He will meet you at the point of your needs. It is when we obey what the Holy Spirit admonishes us to do here that the peace of God will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. I

pray for you that the peace of God will come mightily upon your troubled body, soul and spirit today in Jesus' Name.

John 14:23-27

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

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.

(KJV)

Peace is the result of one's communion with God. Peace is an inner rest that cannot be expressed in words. Every God given direction and instruction is accompanied by peace. This is why the Psalmist said; **Psalms 23:2** "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters".

When God leads, it is always in the path that guarantees peace and rest. Whenever you want to make a decision and you lose your peace, there is a need for you to re-examine that decision because, if you do not have peace concerning that thing, God may not be involved. All the battles of my life till date have been fought by God; I just fold my hands and bask in His rest. There are people running from one point to the other, until you allow the peace of God to come into your heart, God cannot be at work in your life. With the peace of God in your life, there will be achievements of many feats. With the peace of God in your life, triumphs in your pursuits are guaranteed. As disciples of Jesus, we must seek for peace of God above all things and this can be achieved when we make our ways right with Him. **Job 22:21** "Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee".

We must return to the will of God so that there can be peace in our hearts. Let us set our hearts on the truth of the Word of God, even if it means experiencing social intimidation. Let us pattern our lives after the will of God. Let us focus on that which is true, noble and right. Let us keep our minds on the pure, lovely and admirable ways of life which please God, so that all things can work together for our good. We live in a world where there is no peace except in Christ alone.

Nations are lifting up arms against nations; there is so much tension in world

affairs. Suicide rates are on the increase. Terrorism is spreading like fire. You never can tell what the next person standing next to you is capable of, yet in all these things assured us that; John 16:33 **"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"**. Jesus is the author of peace. He is the Prince of peace, when He dwells in you, war and crises cease.

Philippians 4:4-8

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything 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.

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.

(KJV)

We can know all the facts about God's provisions, but if emotions do not support our knowledge, we will not be able to act upon what we know to be true. The peace of God applies a balm of inner serenity to our emotions. If you have the peace of God, you will feel at peace in mind and heart – the total inner person. All of us know what it is like to lack inner peace. Some crisis comes into our lives – some worry, some danger – and a turbulent storm rages within. Many people seek peace through tranquilizers, depressants, and other drugs. Others turn to illicit drugs or alcohol. Some try pseudo-religious movements such as transcendental meditation to find a solution for their lack of peace. **Philippians 4:6-7** says: **"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"**.

How does the believer walk in the shoes of peace? **Philippians 4:6-7** reminds us that it is through prayer. Time alone with God in thankful, prayerful petition is the most effective inner tranquilizer. There is no solution to inner disquiet as effective as prayer. It always works. The peace of God transcends all understanding. That means the peace of God is above and beyond what we understand. It is more than we really need to see us through.

The next time you sense a great inner shaking or even just a slight inner disquiet,

try prayer. Shut yourself away for thirty minutes or an hour alone with God. Use doctrinal praying. Pray back to God the truth of being "in Christ," inseparably united with Christ in all of His person and work. Pray through your understanding of the Holy Spirit. Pray on each part of the believer's armor. Thank the Lord for all of His grace and goodness. Tell Him about your anxieties and concerns.

God will intervene to change things. It may be so gradual, you will scarcely know how or when it happens, but when you finish, you will discover the peace of God within your emotions. A quiet inner serenity and calm reigns even though the storm may still rage around you. I know that to be true both by experience and by the Word of God. In fact, if you are practicing this kind of praying regularly, you will discover the peace of God already there before the crisis comes.

The Scriptures are utterly practical and workable. The Bible works when we use its promises in every circumstance of life. Have you ever considered that your lack of inner peace may be God's way of calling you to prayer? We have many marvelous electronic gadgets available to us today. A lack of inner peace could be God's beeper signals to you. God may be calling you for an audience with Himself. He wants fellowship with you, and in the process He will restore to you that peace that transcends all understanding.

Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell

in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.

³ Thou hast multiplied the nation,
and not increased the joy: they joy be-
fore thee according to the joy in har-
vest, and as men rejoice when they di-
vide the spoil.

⁴ For thou hast broken the yoke of
his burden, and the staff of his shoul-
der, the rod of his oppressor, as in the
day of Midian.

⁵ For every battle of the warrior
is with confused noise, and garments
rolled in blood; but this shall be with
burning and fuel of fire.

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a
son is given: and the government shall
be upon his shoulder: and his name
shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Fa-
ther, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government
and peace there shall be no end, upon
the throne of David, and upon his
kingdom, to order it, and to estab-
lish it with judgment and with jus-
tice from henceforth even forever. The
zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform
this.

(KJV)

In recent times, the entire world has
been troubled by one thing or the other.
Governments of nations all over the world
have explored all avenues and different the-
ories to solve their problems, yet the crises

increase. So many budgets are being voted by members of different groups all in the name of providing peace, and the more the investment of time, meetings, mediations and reconciliations, the less the solutions. Until we come back to where we have missed it, we will just keep reinventing the wheel. Also, individuals go through different forms of troubles and worries with no solution. There is nothing like an atmosphere of peace either in a nation or in the life of an individual. It is the greatest thing the world is searching for today and it is the best thing that can happen to a person.

Peace is saying no to violence and creating room for harmony and love. Those who do not have peace cannot experience wellness of life. When there is no peace in a place, it exposes everyone to hostility and aggression, but where there is peace; there is rest of mind and tranquility. I decree that you will find peace today in Jesus' name. Finding peace is finding Jesus Christ. He came to restore the broken relationship between man and God. He came to reconcile us back to the Father. Jesus is the one who broke down every wall of partition between us and God. **Ephesians 2:14 "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;"**

No matter what you are going through in your life, there is a solution in Christ Jesus. In what area are you experiencing problem? Come to the Prince of Peace and He will give you rest. Are you having troubles and fierce

storms in your marriage? Come to Jesus and He will step into the centre of your home and give you peace. **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".**

There will be trying times in the life of every child of God but you can be rest assured that in your troubled times, you are not alone. God will never allow the trouble to overwhelm you. He will make you experience calmness in the situation. It is important you know that peace is not necessarily the absence of war, it is the presence of rest and calmness in the time of war. Jesus will always bring light into every darkness. He will always speak peace into every storm. He presides over every unpleasant situation of life so that you can experience His peace.