

PERFECT PEACE 8.11.2020 AM

Peace! Peace! Shalom! Shalom!

Key verse: **Isaiah 26:3** *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.* (NIV)

See also Amplified & The Message.

This is for everyone but not everyone has learned to receive this state of peace – perfect peace - is ‘for the one’ whose mind is set on God. God’s peace; perfect peace is about wholeness of soul, not just a part here and there (peace on some issues and not on all)... God’s peace is not only the absence of war or conflict. Truly worth meditating on – renewing our mind on this subject sets us up to be transformed from glory to glory.

Peace / Shalom: root meaning is to be whole and sound – fit for service -

From that we can find ourselves in a precious state:

- to be safe, sound, healthy, perfect, complete, have a sense of well-being and harmony both within and without – It is completeness, wholeness, peace, health, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, fullness, rest, harmony; the absence of agitation or discord, a state of calm without anxiety or stress, a sense of well-being. Some say; nothing missing and nothing broken. In some aspects it speaks of a vigour and a vitality – a wholeness of soul - worth studying, worth having and worth pursuing and **completely possible with God.**

If it's possible with God, how do I become this perfect state of peace? *You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!*

1. FIX YOUR THOUGHTS

Choose the frame; change the mind, renew thinking, determine the thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ *For though we live in the world, we **do not wage war** as the world does. ⁴ *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

‘do not war’ – (don’t war with carnal inclinations) ... the battle of the mind we have is in the natural fact that we are negatively wired (what bleeds leads) and there needs to be a casting down / demolishing of wrong thinking – we need to think like Jesus.

In the taking captive ‘every’ thought – bringing it into line with the truth that is in Jesus Christ / His Word

We do have an enemy – the devil (who opposes the mind with wrong thoughts) – so because we have an enemy, we have a war, a fight – his objectives or Christ’s? His thoughts or mine? He wants to bring confusion – the strategy we have is to have captivity over our own thoughts; we must know this is a battle; some things I choose not to expose myself to, some emails, screens - I choose not to open.

2. CAST YOUR CARES

Grace of God teaches us to say no to ungodliness but there are thoughts we have – we need to **cast** properly ... otherwise there’s a tangle. We cast away and we don’t cast it back. No one goes chasing after their rubbish.

1 Peter 5:7 ‘cast all your anxieties on Him for He cares for you’ Your anxieties, your cares, your worries – must pour them out and leave them there with Him, on Him – there is no where else to leave them ... cast properly, get unentangled... 1 Peter 5:5-11: *‘In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.” ⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ *Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you.’***

3. BE SOBER

⁸ *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ *To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.****

We need to be alert – and think about what we think about. See this battlefield concept in 2 Timothy 2:2-4

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

Soldiers have active duties on the battlefield; he casts off the offers of civilian life and serves his Master. (Reservist). **Soldiers** don't get entwined in civilian matters – don't implicate themselves with civilian matters while they're serving; they're battle ready – not reserves – there's confusion if I think I am a civilian. I am a Christian In Australia ... in a full on battle that has already been won by Christ. Right thinking is sober thinking is right thinking... a sober mind is a set mind; strong, firm and steadfast in faith, and doesn't come under the influence of any devourer or invitation to take us off guard.

4. SET YOUR MIND

'My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' Colossians 2:2-3

Thinking up and not down; eternally not temporally; heavenly not earthly; faithfully not fearfully; strategically not loose. Proverbs 23:7 'as a man thinks, so he is (in his heart)' NKJV 'Thinks' – Hebrews: as a man gatekeeps – What we open the gate to is what we have. What we shut the gate to is what we don't have.

We set our mind by fixing our thoughts.

Philippians 4:6-8

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Don't worry – close that gate – **then** you will experience the peace of God. The final thing – in verse 8 – 'think on' means: **Make these things the subjects of your thoughts; take account of these things; carefully reflect on these things 'Fix' your thoughts – not on the media; not on social media, no on perceptions....** Shut the gate on these unless they are: True, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent things, praiseworthy things

Jesus said: ***"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more."*** Mark 4:24

David said: ***'The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.'*** Psalm 119:130. The entrance (through the gate) of God's word gives light (dispels the darkness);

Paul – being transparent in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Stressed, but not distressed; troubled on every (out)side – hard pressed – perplexed even ... when there seemed to be no hope, they never gave in to despair (a place of no hope); when they were at a loss mentally they held to the fact that they were never lost utterly. Chased but never left behind; struck down/cast down – cast away, but never deserted.

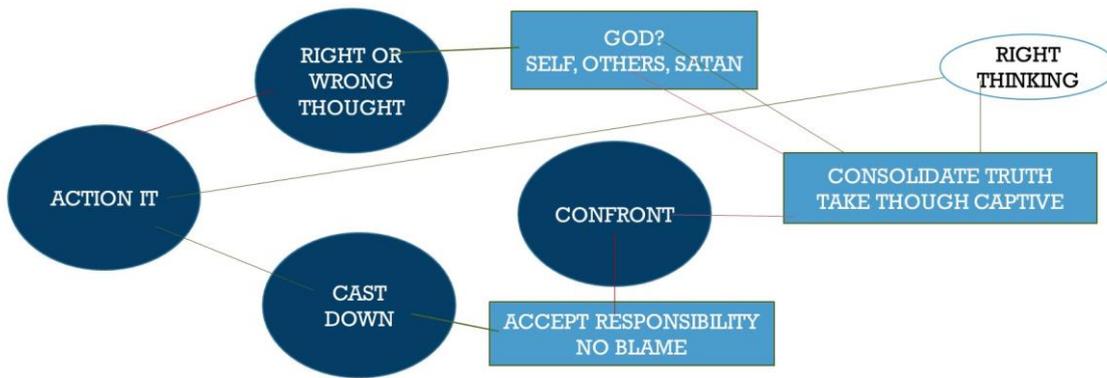
Good soldier of Christ Paul. PEACE! PEACE! Success! Success!

Mind steadfast because they trusted God; stayed their mind on Christ.

Peace is not the absence of trouble or conflict; this peace transcends (goes way over) any natural understanding or natural resolution.

There is an enemy, and he has declared war on you. He wants to nail you by your own thoughts – we need to nail our thoughts, ourselves to the Cross; your enemy wants to take you down, to steal, kill, destroy anything of yours that he can. Jesus Christ has taken us up – seated us with Him in heavenly places. He defeated and disarmed the devil and made a public spectacle of him by the Cross. Jesus ascended and took captivity captive. We are not destroyed – unless we are not captivated by Jesus; unless our thoughts remain uncaptivated by us.

The bible uses military terms for this battle; we have a good fight, of faith, to fight. Our work is to believe.
How:



Right thinking and faith work together. You can have right thinking on its own but when we mix our right thinking with trust in God (Isaiah 26:30 the result is peace peace. (Double peace; double success; shalom shalom). This is synergy ... bible definition is **working together** ... modern online dictionary definition is: **“the interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects”**

Bronze – made up of copper and tin. The tin added, hardens the copper; makes it more ready to melt; makes it harder than pure iron; and more resistant to corrosion; mankind working with bronze since Genesis 4.

Potassium Chlorate and jelly baby
 Some things don't go together.

Some things do.

Believe and receive – power to be children of God; fervent prayer + righteous man – prayer avails much

Reinhard Bonnke (now deceased) shared this: *“When I sometimes feel like a zero, I flee to Jesus. He is the number ONE. And when we stand next to each other, we make already 10. Jesus puts value into every zero.*

Jesus places value.

PEACE! PEACE! Greater sum.

Spirit, soul and body – working together with God in the right order? Synergy.

Individually and corporately

Nothing missing; nothing broken – why? The mind is set, the heart can trust Him.

Peace: New Testament: 'Eirene' - health, well-being, prosperity / everything that makes for man's highest good.

Eirene: right relationship (God & man / man & man); everything in place – as it should be; a conscious possession of divine favour creating and sustaining mental tranquillity.