

**In our daily life, we often do not have peace but rather conflict.
We also have a hard time knowing whom to trust:**

Ps. 28:3:

Do not drag me off with the wicked,
with the workers of evil,
who speak peace with their neighbors
while evil is in their hearts.

Ps. 35:20:

For they do not speak peace,
but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.

Ps. 120:6-7:

Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.
I am for peace,
but when I speak, they are for war!

Is. 59:8:

The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths;
they have made their roads crooked;
no one who treads on them knows peace.

Jer. 9:8:

Their tongue is a deadly arrow;
it speaks deceitfully;
with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor,
but in his heart he plans an ambush for him.

Gen. 37:4:

But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers,
they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

**As a result, we often think and act out of fear.
The opposite of peace is fear.**

Gen. 43:23a:

He replied, "Peace to you, do not be afraid."

Lev. 26:6:

I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid.
And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through
your land.

Only God can make real peace, so that trust can be restored:

Num. 6:26:

the Lord lift up his face upon you and give you peace.

Judges 6:22-24:

But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace.

Judges 18:6:

And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the Lord."

Job 25:2

"Dominion and fear are with God;
he makes peace in his high heaven."

Ps. 4:8:

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Ps. 29:11:

May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Ps. 85:8:

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to foolishness.

Ps. 54:10:

For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

God's peace comes to us through Jesus Christ:

Zech. 9:9-10:

Behold, your king is coming to you...
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth

Is. 9:6-7a:

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

Is. 52:7 (compare Nahum 1:15):
How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Is. 53:5:
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Eph. 2:13-15:
But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the
blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has
broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of
commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new
man in place of the two, so making peace,

**Jesus alone has the power to move us out of our fear into peace.
This is what he longs to do for us.**

Jn. 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 hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Jn. 20:19:
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where
the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to
them, "Peace be with you."

For two people to be at peace, the Lord must be between them and be their bond of peace:

1 Sam. 20:42:

Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'"

Seeking peace is the goal of our lives

Ps. 34:14 (1 Pet. 3:11):

Turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

Zech. 8:12:

For there shall be a sowing of peace.

Ps. 37:37:

Mark the blameless and behold the upright,
for there is a future for the man of peace.

Ps. 85:10:

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Mt. 5:9:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Rom.: 14:17,19:

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...
So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

James 3:18:

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The goal of peace cannot be achieved by forcing things:

Ps. 37:11:

But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

James 3:17:

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

To work for peace takes time and it often hurts or comes at a personal cost:

Ps. 39:2:

I was mute and silent;

I held my peace to no avail, and my distress grew worse.

**Easy, false peace or “peace” without truth is worthless and a trap.
We should never settle for this, since God hates everything that is false and misleading:**

Jer. 6:14;/8:11; 8:15/14:19:

They have healed the wound of my people lightly,
saying, ‘Peace, peace,’
when there is no peace...

We looked for peace, but no good came;
for a time of healing, but behold, terror.

Ezek. 13:10-11a:

Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, ‘Peace,’ when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash, say to those who smear it with whitewash that it shall fall!

Ps. 69:22:

Let their own table before them become a snare;
and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.

James 2:15-16:

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

Real peace is patient and looks with the eyes of God to the well-being of the whole person

1 Sam. 25:6:

And thus you shall greet him: “Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.”

2 Cor. 13:11:

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.