7 Ways to Peace Pt.2

January 9, 2020

John 14:27 ESV

"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."

THE CROSS OF JESUS

There is no peace without reconciliation with God, because everything is wrong in a life that is not right with God.

Without the reconciliation provided by Jesus, you are God's enemy waiting for His wrath and judgment to fall.

Romans 5:1-2 ESV

- 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 <u>Through him</u> we have also <u>obtained access by faith</u> into <u>this grace in which we stand</u>, and we <u>rejoice in hope</u> of the glory of God.

REPENTANCE

Without experiencing God's forgiveness through the confession of your sins, you will stay under the suffocating darkness of quilt and damnation.

Psalm 32:3-5 ESV

- 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
- 5 <u>I acknowledged my sin to you</u>, and <u>I did not cover my iniquity</u>; I said, "<u>I will confess my transgressions</u> to the LORD," and <u>you forgave the iniquity of my sin</u>. Selah

THE LOVE OF GOD

So much of our inner torment, fear and guilt has one source - not knowing the love God has for us.

No one can convince you that God loves you unconditionally just as you are. You will only be convinced alone with God one-on-one.

God's love for you does not depend on who you are, but on Who He is.

"I believe this is the greatest battle that a Christian has. It's to maintain this imprint in the soul that God loves me. There are times I fail, I do things that grieve the Holy Spirit, but He loves me. I've come to examine my own heart on this many times, after preaching it to so many people, to go to prisons, for example and preach about the love of God and so seldom feel loved by God." —David Wilkerson

1 John 4:16-18 ESV

16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

17 By this is <u>love perfected with us</u>, so that we may <u>have confidence for the day of judgment</u>, because <u>as he is</u> so <u>also are we in this world</u>.

18 There is <u>no fear in love</u>, but <u>perfect love casts out fear</u>. For <u>fear has to do</u> with <u>punishment</u>, and <u>whoever</u> <u>fears</u> has <u>not been perfected in love</u>.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

• Although life is out of our control, it is never out of God's control.

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 <u>declaring the end from the beginning</u> and <u>from ancient times things not yet done</u>, saying, '<u>My counsel</u> <u>shall stand</u>, and <u>I will accomplish all my purpose</u>,'

11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. <u>I have spoken</u>, and <u>I</u> will bring it to pass; <u>I have purposed</u>, and <u>I will do it</u>.

Proverbs 16:4

4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Proverbs 16:33

33 The lot is cast into the lap, but <u>its every decision</u> is <u>from the LORD</u>.

Daniel 4:34-35 ESV

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, <u>lifted my eyes to heaven</u>, and <u>my reason returned to me</u>, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for <u>his dominion is an everlasting dominion</u>, and <u>his kingdom endures</u> from generation to generation;

35 <u>all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing</u>, and <u>he does according to his will</u> among the host of heaven and <u>among the inhabitants of the earth</u>; and <u>none can stay his hand</u> or <u>say to him</u>, "<u>What have you done</u>?"

 You will never know peace in the worst of storms until the conviction of God's sovereignty is stronger and more certain than the surrounding circumstances.

Matthew 8:24-26 ESV

24 And behold, there <u>arose a great storm</u> on the sea, so that <u>the boat was being swamped by the waves;</u> but he was asleep.

25 And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

 The less we understand, the less we should try. Our mind will sabotage our faith and breed confusion, doubt and discouragement.

Proverbs 28:26

26 Whoever <u>trusts in his own mind</u> (leb - mind, heart, understanding) is a <u>fool</u>, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

Proverbs 3:5-7

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

• *In the midst of the storm:*

meditate and pray on God's sovereignty

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but <u>be transformed</u> by <u>the renewal of your mind</u>, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

• disengage as much as possible from busyness, questioning and contention (they only distract and discourage).

Luke 5:15-16 ESV

15 But now <u>even more the report about him went abroad</u>, and <u>great crowds gathered to hear him</u> and <u>to be healed</u> of their infirmities.

16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

See the depth and the degree of God's involvement in your life.

Matthew 10:29-31 ESV

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And <u>not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father</u>.

30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered (arithmeō - to enumerate, number, ordered list).

31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Romans 8:28 ESV

28 And we know that for <u>those who love God</u> <u>all things work together for good</u>, for <u>those who are called</u> according to his purpose.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. <u>God is faithful</u>, and <u>he will not let you be tempted</u> <u>beyond your ability</u>, but <u>with the temptation</u> he will also <u>provide the way of escape</u>, that <u>you</u> may be able to endure it.

Psalm 37:23-25 NASB

- 23 The steps of a man are <u>established by the LORD</u>, And <u>He delights in his way</u>.
- 24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.
- 25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet <u>I have not seen the righteous forsaken</u> Or <u>his descendants</u> <u>begging bread</u>.