

God of Peace

“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”
Philippians 4:9.

The peace of God is sought and highly prized, and for good reason. Peace is a very attribute of God – Paul calls God a God of peace. If we're to become like Christ, and thus like God, then the more we strive to put on Christ, the more we strive after having the peace of God. And since God and His attributes are required for living, peace is required in all of our lives. The farther we stray from peace into unrest and anxiety the more we realize our need for God's peace and our souls crave it. We live in a time and place where many souls are craving peace more and more because they are finding it less and less. Many people are dehydrated in their lack of peace and spiritually dying of thirst. As a result, there are many panicked people desperately seeking peace in all the wrong places.

We need to understand what the Bible teaches about peace. Often we connect the concepts of *peace* and *rest*. These are not the same thing. *Rest* carries the ideas of *doing very little or no activities* – as in *the Sabbath rest*. Biblical peace, however, is *being in a loving relationship with reciprocated loyalty with God*. Where these two concepts, *peace* and *rest*, intersect is how they both imply *without worry*. But peace is not without activity.

A few verses earlier, Paul famously writes that the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts when we make our requests to God known in prayer and supplication. However, as we see in the above verse, there is a connection between our prayers to God and practicing the things that Paul taught. It's not simply that we pray and then receive all of God's peace, though there certainly is peacefulness in prayer. The peace of God also comes to us when we're practicing becoming like God, as we see in Paul's teachings.

If we find ourselves in anxiety and desperate for peace, then we need to ask ourselves if we're practicing the things that Paul taught as well as praying. Because we can't separate these two activities. In order for there to be peace in our lives, there must first be activity in our Christian training and in our relationship with God. This means both speaking with Him and becoming like Him, not simply resting and waiting for the anxiety to pass. **[DJR]**