

PERFECT PEACE Isaiah 26:3,4

Every believer needs peace in three areas when it comes to his relationship with God. (1) We need to have peace **with** God which comes by faith in knowing that we are justified by the blood of Christ. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). (2) We need to have the peace **of** God which comes through committing everything to God in prayer. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing 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" (Philippians 4:6,7). (3) We need peace **from** God which comes through keeping our heart and mind stayed on Him. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 23:6).

While this text and promise is written to the nation of Israel for a future day, and is a prophetic utterance for them in a time of trouble, I believe we can make an application for us in our day and time and profit from it. We live in a day of turmoil and unrest, and a day in which we see this truth coming to pass, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21:26). If we follow the evening news, or the newspaper, and get occupied with what we see and read, we might well wonder what will happen to us. It is imperative that we keep our minds stayed on the Lord for He is our only hope and peace in a world that has no hope and peace.

We know that the world in which we live is bankrupt morally, politically, financially, and spiritually. There is no answer to turning this around until the cause is exposed. Until the **root of sin** is stated as the reason for all our troubles, and confessed to God, there is going to be no peace. The world has a false sense of peace. The peace they have is usually based on the economy, enough to eat, a place to sleep, and various pleasures. This alone lulls the majority to sleep and causes them no concern. "The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace" (Isaiah 59:8). It is like the prophet Jeremiah said, "They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; Ezekiel 13:10). Paul also had a warning, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3). We all know that the Scriptures are clear on the state of the wicked. "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22). "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:20,21).

(1) It is God who keeps us.

God does not save a person and then just leave them to themselves. He takes up residence in them, He keeps them, He works in them, and they are never let out of His sight and reign. "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber" (Psalm 121:3). "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5). "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

(2) It is perfect peace.

Peace is defined as a state of tranquility, free from disturbance, such as, fear, terror, anger, anxiety, and quietness of mind. We read of the God who gives this peace, "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him" (Psalm 18:30). "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" (John 14:27). This is not just peace, but perfect peace. Perfect means consummate, no defects, nothing lacking, or that there is no better peace than this.

(3) The condition necessary to having this perfect peace.

Whose mind is stayed on thee. The mind is the battleground for all time. All suggestive thought comes from spiritual wickedness in high places and we must raise up a defence against it. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

The heart and the mind are used interchangeably in the Scripture. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: . . ." (Proverbs 23:7). "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Therefore we are admonished by Paul to renew our minds. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Ephesians 4:23). "And put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Colossians 3:10).

To have our mind stayed on the Lord it is necessary that the Word of God be read carefully, studied and applied, memorized and lived, and above all held in higher esteem than any other element in life. A mind filled (stayed) with the Scriptures is a mind filled with Christ, and is a stronghold Satan cannot enter. We do have to live in this world, and in many ways as other men are, but we have something they don't have, we have the mind of Christ to lay hold of and strengthen us. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

The same word "stayed," is "fixed" in the Psalms. "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise" (Psalm 57:7). "O GOD, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory" (Psalm 108:1). "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD" (Psalm 112:7). Those in Scripture who had a heart fixed on the Lord, **without exception**, were all single minded. Heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit were all concentrated on one purpose. They allowed no distraction to keep them from going on with the Lord. (See Job, Daniel, Paul, etc.) We, while our particular problems may be unique and applicable only to our generation, they are the same things faced by all men of all time when it comes to keeping faith alive. We have TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards, computers, ipods, etc., and all are aimed at anything approved to decency, and a clean and pure walk with the Lord. It is of great importance that we give the highest priority to keeping our minds fixed and stayed on the Lord.

(4) Stayed on the thee (the LORD).

(A) This is the blessed God who is the object of our praise, worship, and adoration. This is none other than the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6). The Lord stated that there were two commandments, and one was that we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind. Now none would dare say they have done this, or it is a constant reality in our life, but can we not say we sincerely want it so?

Because He is the Prince of peace, if we fix our minds on the Prince of peace, we shall have peace. "The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace" (Psalm 29:11). He makes peace. "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do these things" (Isaiah 45:7).

He is the God of peace. "Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen'." (Romans 15:33). "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. . . ." (Romans 16:20). "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9). "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: . . ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23). "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant" (Hebrews 13:20).

He is the peace of God. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

He speaks peace. ". . . Peace be unto you" (John 20:19,21,26).

He sends peace. "The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ; (he is Lord of all:)" (Acts 10:36). ". . . Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7).

He is our peace. "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2:14).

(B) He sustains the creation which He created. "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:3,4). "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16,17). "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:2,3).

Are we going to run out of natural resources? Is there a problem with global warming? I think not. He who created the world is well able to sustain it. If not a blade of grass moves apart from His supreme power, wisdom, and will; if not a sparrow falls to the ground without His decree (Matthew 10:29); if the hairs of our head are all numbered (Matthew 10:30); and if all the stars are numbered and named (Psalm 147:4), He will take care of His people (Psalm 91). "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

(C) He is sovereign. "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:35). "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision" (Psalm 2:1-4). "Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin" (John 19:10,11).

(D) He is unchangeable. "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6). "And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail" (Hebrews 1:12). "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil" (Hebrews 6:17-19). "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). His ways with the sons of men are ever the same in redemption, salvation, justification, sanctification, reconciliation, mercy, and grace.

(E) He is eternal. What He is, is eternal. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy before thee; and shall say, Destroy them" (Deut. 33:27). "LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:1,2). He is life eternal. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28). "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

In Him we have eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:9); eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12); eternal refuge (Deut.33:27); eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15); and eternal life (Titus 1:2).

(F) He is faithful or His faithfulness never fails. "Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds" (Psalm 36:5). (See also Psalm 89:1,8,24,33; 119:90). "They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:23). "God is faithful, . . ." (1 Corinthians 1:9). "There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil" (2 Thessalonians 3:3). "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war" (Revelation 19:11).

(G) He is the Word of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). There is no truth in this world apart from the Word of God. Other men may write profound and deep thoughts that inspire and challenge, but only in the Word of God do we find life in Christ. We must make it our constant companion in every phase of our life. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

Because he trusteth in thee. What does it mean to trust? It means to put all our confidence in Him, believe Him, and totally rely on Him. We can trust Him forever. It is

our everlasting strength. When we have nothing else to trust, trust Him, and do so forever. Trust in anything else is within the limits of time and is not eternal. Jehovah, who was, and is, and is to come, the Rock of Ages, a firm and lasting foundation for faith to stand upon. The title, "LORD (JAH) JEHOVAH" (26:4), is a compound title expressing in the highest degree the unchanging love and power of God. Trust in Him forever.

If we are obedient to fix and stay our mind on God we will have perfect peace. Inward peace, outward peace, peace with God, the peace of God, peace of conscience, and peace under all events. God will keep us in perpetual peace, and the peace of God shall keep us.