

# Peace in the Middle of a Thorn Bush

In the midst of a chaotic world there is a great desire for peace. Yet in the midst of our pursuits of peace the world is still in chaos and turmoil. Why is it that we have no peace?

This chaos and turmoil is the result of the Fall. It is a symptom of sin.

Man will not find peace until he finds peace with God.

## **John 14:27 NKJV**

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

There are two types of peace, the kind Jesus gives and the kind that the world gives.

## **Isaiah 53:5 NKJV**

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

No matter how hard you try or how far you look, you will not find peace apart from Christ.

## **Romans 5:1 NKJV**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

## **Ephesians 2:14 NKJV**

Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

We have peace with God *and* the peace of God.

Why then do we still react to the world like the world?

### **Romans 14:17 NKJV**

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

God gives us His peace and we must receive this peace. The result of this is that we will have no fear nor be troubled (cf. John 14:27).

Instead of responding like the world does to trouble and responding like they do we can walk in peace.

## **What is Peace?**

Peace, *eirēnē*

wholeness, completeness in the soul  
strongly suggests the rule of order in the midst of chaos

We are meant to be carriers of God's peace.

Peace, *shalom*

wholeness, completeness, health, prosperity

## **Peace and Joy**

### **Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

With peace comes joy. Joy brings contentment.

Like peace, joy comes from God.

## **2 Peter 1:2 TPT**

May grace and perfect peace cascade over you as you live in the rich knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

# Thorns

## **Genesis 3:17-19 NKJV**

**17** Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. **18** Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. **19** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

Thorns are a symbolic representation of the fall and the curse.

## **Judges 2:3 NKJV**

Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’

Thorns also represent wicked men.

Thorns are often a defense mechanism, like with the rose. The tips of thorns sometimes carry bacteria. If you get pricked by a thorn you can get infected.

How do we maintain peace in the midst of the thorns?

## **Philippians 4:4 NKJV**

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

### **Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV**

**6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Anxiousness will bring you out of a place of peace. Prayer and thanksgiving will keep you there.

The devil wants to attack our mind and cause us to be unstable (cf. James 1:8).

As we abide in Christ we will have peace in the midst of the thorns.

Guard can also be translated *umpire*. God's peace will tell us when it is safe or out of bounds.

## **Conclusion**

First we need to make sure we have peace with God. Then, through the Holy Spirit, we need to walk in the peace of God.