

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Peace - Jenna van der Westhuizen

Peace is so much more than an absence of 'war' (conflict, strife, fighting). It also points to the presence of something in its place. The word for peace in Hebrew: 'shalom', means wholeness. **It speaks of something complete and unbroken and finished.** A person is 'shalom' (at peace) when they are restored and whole - not just living absent of conflict or strife. There is a state of wholeness and order that brings blessing and prosperity.

'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:9

Peace is a loaded word and Jenna unpacks three powerful thoughts on peace:

1. God's Declaration of Peace

God used to dwell in the temple - now we are the new temple that He dwells in. He makes a declaration about us (the new house). He declares that he will grant peace in this 'place'. God declares that he will give us peace in our lives and our hearts. He also promises that the new house (us) will be greater than the former (the physical temple). The mark of his greater glory will be His peace in our lives.

2. God's Promise of Peace

God promises peace in: your heart (John 14:27; Col 3:15) and your mind (Isa 26:3). We know God is faithful to fulfill every promise (Heb 10:23) - including this promise to grant peace in our hearts and minds, should we choose to allow Him into those spaces. We don't need to make or find our own peace - He gives us peace.

*Now may the Lord of peace himself **give you peace at all times and in every way.** The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thess 3:16*

3. The 'Work' of Peace

The promise of peace is there for the taking - we have to choose to take it. Restoration will take some intentional choices from us - to allow God in and to be obedient to what he asks us to do. He has a strategy for you to bring restoration and win your fight so that you can walk in peace. Are you ready to submit to Him, the Prince of Peace, and trust that He can bring peace in your life?

Reflection:

1. 'Ask Him for the strategy for peace and you will be surprised with His goodness at telling you how to win your battle.' What area of your life right now feels like a war or fight? Take a moment to speak to your Heavenly Father about it. Ask Him to show you His strategy for peace and restoration in that area.
2. Share what you hear Father telling you is the way forward for peace with someone who can hold you accountable, pray with you, and encourage you.