

Give You Peace; Numbers 6:22-27

- I. Peace
 - A. Our primary understanding of this word is flawed
 - B. Most of us can remember where we were on September 11, 2001
 1. For me there are many other dates that stand out
 2. April 15, 1986, Reagan ordered the bombing of Lybia
 3. January 17, 1991, Operation Desert Storm, otherwise known as the Gulf War
 4. 12 October 2000, Al-Queda bombed the USS Cole
 5. March 20, 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom
 - C. The primary meaning of the Hebrew word can be characterized by healthiness, completeness or intactness
 - D. One more date; August 19, 1993, I received the Peace of Jesus
 - E. We have derived all sorts of other meanings from our flawed understanding
- II. The World's peace
 - A. The absence of conflict
 1. During war there are always those who would say there is a better way
 2. And there is a better way than war, but both parties have to desire it
 - a) Using diplomacy is better if both sides desire peace
 - b) If one side desires war (or something that will cause war), then diplomacy will not work
 - B. There is conflict in every part of our individual lives
 1. Marriage and divorce
 2. The workplace or lack of work
 3. Driving on the roadways
 - C. Conflict has been part of the world since sin entered
 - D. The only time there has been world peace was in the Garden, and then not for long
 1. Genesis 2:15–17; 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
 - E. After the fall, there was constant conflict
 1. Cain and Abel
 2. The corruption of Noah's time
 3. The pride of the people in Shinar (Babel)
 4. Abraham
 - a) And lot
 - b) And Hagar
 - c) And Abimelech
 5. Jacob and Esau
 6. Joseph and his brothers
 7. Israel and Egypt
 8. Israel and Canaan
 9. Saul and David
 10. A side note on David
 - a) 2 Samuel 7:1; Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,
 - b) David may have had rest from his enemies, but he was busy with conflict within his own family; the death of his son with Bathsheba, Absalom's treachery, etc.

- F. No matter where or what time in history we turn to, we find conflict
- G. If peace meant the absence of conflict, then there has never been (or ever will be) peace
- H. But God gives us peace!

III. The Lord's peace

- A. John 14:25–27; 25 “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 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.
- B. God's peace is different than the world's peace
- C. God's peace is not related to circumstances, but to a tranquility based on His promises and His presence
- D. “Peace” is used in both an objective sense, restoration with God, and a subjective sense, a feeling of security or stability amidst difficult circumstances.” Bob Utely
- E. His Promises
 - 1. He promises that we will not have more conflict than we can bear (temptation)
 - 2. He promises us that we have a way out of conflict (temptation)
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 10:13; No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
 - 4. He promises us a reward for our faithfulness
 - a) Hebrews 11:6; And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 - 5. He promises us a reward for our persecution
 - a) Matthew 5:11–12; 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 - 6. He promises us a reward for our deeds
 - a) Matthew 6:1–4; 1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- F. His Presence
 - 1. “I will be with you”
 - a) A promise given to the Apostles (Matthew 28:20)
 - b) A promise given to us
 - c) 1 Corinthians 3:16; Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
 - d) Romans 8:9–11; 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised

Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

G. But we often allow that peace to depart from us (or actively give it away)

IV. The Robber of peace

A. John 10:7–11; 7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

B. We cannot allow Satan to redefine peace

C. We can have peace even in the midst of conflict

D. Romans 5:1–2; 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1. Our justification gives us peace (tranquility because of His promise and presence)

2. Our hope gives us peace

E. Philippians 4:6–7; 6 do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.

1. It is hard to understand the peace of God

2. Yet it guards our hearts and minds

3. When we let go of peace, we lose our guardian

F. Colossians 1:19–20; 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

1. It is the blood of Christ which purchased our peace

2. Tranquility because of God’s promise and His presence

V. Give You Peace

A. The world does not understand what peace is

B. God has given us His peace

C. Don’t let Satan rob you of God’s peace