

Module : Soul Prosperity

Session 3 : Rest and Peace Bring Prosperity

Focus : Connection Between Peace and Prosperity



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REST AND PEACE

Recall that total life prosperity – prospering in ‘ALL RESPECTS’ - will be realised fully **AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS**. Prosperity is related to embarking upon a journey, receiving grace or help along the way and ultimately reaching a God-determined destination. The destination for the soul is to **FIND REST through purity and obedience**.

In our previous sessions, we explored many **blessings of total life prosperity that will result when the soul ‘returns’ to its rest. Here is a brief summary:**

- ❖ Working in rest must characterise your labour in God. Then you will have results akin to Christ Himself as you ‘find rest’ by learning of Him, and then taking upon yourself His yoke and burden in all your work efforts in His kingdom (Matt 11:28-29).
- ❖ Entrance into divine rest is equated to successful entrance into one’s prophetic destiny.
- ❖ Rest positions one for the apostolic mandate of rebuilding, repairing, etc. and also elevates you into high places of influence within the will and calling for your life (Isaiah 58:12-14).
- ❖ An ‘everlasting name’ better than ‘son or daughter’ is promised to those who function in rest as eunuchs in the kingdom, selflessly giving of themselves for the preparation of the bride of Christ without any carnal ambition (Isaiah 56:4-6).
- ❖ Those who embody the rest principle, like Noah did, have the potential of bringing all within their sphere and influence into the same rest. They are preserved in times of great divine shaking of the earth, and safely transition into the next phase of God’s global dealings with the earth. They are poised to be the administrators of significant phases in the overall grand scheme of the outworking of God’s purposes on the earth. (See Genesis 5, 6; Heb. 11:7)
- ❖ Those in REST activate God’s kind and benevolent disposition within His “Covenant of Peace” (Isaiah 54:10) – a disposition completely opposite to anger and judgement, but akin to His oath not to destroy the earth again with flood waters as in Noah’s day. This posture of God brings tremendous favour upon those who exhibit the Noahic principle of REST. Specific blessings, all encoded within Isaiah 54, are poured out on these. Here is a reminder : Fertility and Productivity - Breaking Barrenness [v.1]; Enlargement and Expansion [v.2]; Impacting of Nations [v.3]; Indestructible Financial Wealth [v. 12]; Well Taught and Disciplined Sons [v.13]; Peaceful and Prosperous Sons[v.13]; Total Absence of Fear [v.14]; Protection and Safety [v.17].

- ❖ Sonship is a position of rest through which God builds his house and expresses His purposes. Rest in sonship affords us the awesome privilege of having God build in and through us.
- ❖ Similarly, as we BY GRACE become who we are as God determined it, and labour or work BY THIS GRACE, we produce far greater results than if we attempted to work by our own human skill and talent apart from His grace.

UNDERSTANDING PEACE

Peace does not simply imply the absence of strife, anxiety or fear. Peace is the ability to remain at rest in the midst of the most traumatic circumstances. But peace is far more than this. It also incorporates wholeness, stability, equilibrium, composure, well-being, safety, protection, provision, divine health, strength and total life prosperity.

Peace, although depicting tranquility, is also a position of internal wholeness, completeness, composure without proneness to being unsettled or unseated, indicating a quiet but bold confidence and tremendous military might/authority in God.

In this, and our next study, we seek to explore the idea of divine PEACE more fully.

PEACE AS AN EXPRESSION OF REST

A particular expression of REST in the soul is Divine PEACE. A soul at rest will automatically generate a PEACE in your life.

2 Chron. 20:30 So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat **was at PEACE**, for his God gave him **REST on all sides**.

Isaiah 32:18 Then my people will live in a **peaceful** habitation,
And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed **resting places**

‘Peace’ and ‘rest’ are synonymous. **Solomon**, which means ‘**peace, peaceable or peaceable-ness**’, is described as a **man of REST**. Peace is the outcome of rest; Peace is the indication of rest.

1 Chron. 22:6-13

- 6 Then he called for his son Solomon, and **charged him to build a house** for the Lord God of Israel.
- 7 David said to Solomon, “My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the Lord my God.
- 8 But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘ You have **shed much blood** and have waged **great wars**; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.
- 9 Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall **be a man of rest**; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give **peace and quiet** to Israel in his days.
- 10 He shall build a house for My name, and he shall **be My son and I will be his father**; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.

- 11 Now, my son, the **Lord be with you that you may be successful**, and build the house of the Lord your God just as He has spoken concerning you
- 12 Only the Lord give you **discretion and understanding**, and give you **charge** over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.
- 13 **Then you will prosper**, if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord commanded Moses concerning Israel. **Be strong and courageous, do not fear** nor be dismayed

Building God's House or family can only take place from a position of rest and peace, and not from one characterised by war and strife. We will build nothing of significance for God if we are not men of peace. Men of war and strife are disqualified from building God's house.

Aside Notes:

- **'Successful'** in verse 11 is also translated **'prosper'** as it is in verse 13 (**'tsalach tsaleach'** – see previous session).
- Note that Solomon is **'charged' (tsavah)** (v.6 and 12) to the task of building God's house. This implies that he must be **'enjoined' to this task and be at one with it** – totally committed to it.
- Solomon is referenced as **David's son** in verse 9, but then as **God's son** in verse 10. Spiritual fathers are only given custody of their spiritual sons to be formed into the image of Christ. We are just surrogate fathers on God's behalf. Our spiritual sons are really God's SONS, not ours per se.
- In verses 12 and 13, three factors are highlights for Solomon to **maintain his peace** and rest that **qualifies him to build God's house**, viz. **wisdom (discretion)/understanding, complete unswerving obedience and courage (which implies the absence of fear)**.

PEACE AND PROSPERITY

'Peace' and **'Prosperity'** are often used together or synonymously. **Two of the five Hebrew words that we have explored in session 20 translated 'prosperity' relate to PEACE. Here's a BRIEF reminder:**

PROSPERITY	=	SHALOM, SHALOM	= peace, safe, happy, welfare, rest, etc.
PROSPER	=	SHALVAH	= security, abundance, peace, quietness

As we highlighted in our session 21, Peace and Prosperity are inseparable. A few reminders:

Psalm 122:6-9

- 6 **Pray** for the peace of Jerusalem: **"May they prosper who love you.**
- 7 **"May peace** be within your walls, And **prosperity** within your palaces."
- 8 For the sake of my **brothers and my friends, I will now say**, "May peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, **I will seek your good**

Walls of Peace and Palaces of Prosperity:

Peace and prosperity are part of our inheritance in God. Walls protect palaces. The PROSPERITY within your PALACES will be secured by PEACE within your WALLS. Peace surrounds and undergirds biblical prosperity. Divinely given prosperity thrives in an environment of peace. Where there is no peace, there can be no true biblical prosperity. Internal peace within us and external peace in our relationships are fundamental principles for sustaining biblical prosperity. Deal quickly with anything that erodes internal

and external peace. Strife and tension in your relationships are serious hindrances to total prosperity. Total all-round PROSPERITY is built on PEACE.

Psalm 37:37 Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a **future for the man of peace.** (ESV)

Psalm 37:37b For the **man of peace will have a posterity**

Jer. 33:6-7 Behold, I will bring to it **health and healing**, and **I will heal them**; and I will reveal to them an **abundance of peace** and truth. I will **restore the fortunes** of Judah and the **fortunes of Israel** and will rebuild them as they were at first

Challenge: Only focus on building your palace (prosperity), once your walls (peace) have been erected, and are strong and impenetrable. **Peace protects prosperity and ensures its sustainability, longevity and perpetuity.**

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| ✓ Peace is preparatory to prosperity; | ✓ Peace perpetuates prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace is pre-requisite for prosperity; | ✓ Peace propels prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace is the precursor to prosperity; | ✓ Peace promotes prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace is the pre-qualification for prosperity; | ✓ Peace prolongs prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace is prosperity's price; | ✓ Peace positions people for prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace procures prosperity; | ✓ Peace is prosperity's profile; |
| ✓ Peace pre-figures prosperity; | ✓ Peace is the pulse of prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace possesses prosperity; | ✓ Peace pursued procures prosperity; |
| ✓ Peace presides over prosperity; | ✓ Pray for Peace and Prosperity. |
| ✓ Peace protects prosperity; | |

True biblical Divine prosperity has Divine peace at its core.

Peace Incorporates a Position of Inner Quietness and Strong Confidence

Isaiah 32:17,18

- 17 And the **work of righteousness** will be **peace**,
And the **service of righteousness**, **quietness and confidence** forever.
- 18 Then my people will live in a **peaceful habitation**,
And in secure dwellings and in **undisturbed resting places**

Note here that **peace is the outcome of righteousness**. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy. Peace, the result of righteousness, is also the basis for joy.

The **work of righteousness** is **peace**, i.e. **peace will flow out from righteous living**.

The **service of righteousness** is **quietness and confidence**, i.e. **these will be notable expressions of the fact that peace is present**.

Isaiah 32:17,18 depict two states of peace, viz. **internal inward peace** (v.17) and an **external outward environment characterised by peace** (peaceful habitation and an undisturbed resting place - v.18). Our homes, churches, businesses, cities, lands, etc. will become peaceful habitations when people attain inward peace.

Environment does not determine your inward state, but rather, our internal state conditions our environment. Your inner peace is not a product of your peaceful environment; rather, your environment will be influenced to being peaceful by the force and power of peace within you. Your peace will configure your environment to comply with the principle of peace that you represent. Jesus said that you can even 'leave' (impart) your peace with households and even whole cities.

Isaiah 30:15a For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In **repentance** and **REST** you will be saved, In **quietness and trust is your strength**

Peace Includes Divine Health.

The woman who was healed of her issue of blood received peace.

Luke 8:48 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; **go in peace.**"

Jer. 33:6-7 Behold, I will bring to it **health and healing**, and **I will heal them**; and I will reveal to them an **abundance of peace** and truth. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel and will rebuild them as they were at first

Peace includes Internal Emotional Wholeness and Well-being.

Jer. 8:11 "They heal the **brokenness** of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is **no peace.**

Peace is a Position of Great Strength and Power.

Psalms 29:11 The LORD will **give strength** to His people; The LORD will bless His people with **peace.**

In this verse, **peace is equated to strength.** Being at peace and being peaceable is not being weak or fragile, but formidably powerful. Peace brings with it strength, fortitude and courage. On the contrary, in the absence of peace, weakness and discouragement will thrive.

THE 'GOD OF PEACE' BRINGS WHOLENESS/COMPLETENESS/PROSPERITY TO THE SOUL

In 1 Thess.5:23, God, who is intent on bringing wholeness and completeness to the soul, is deliberately described as a 'GOD OF PEACE'.

1 Thess. 5:23 Now may the **GOD OF PEACE** Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your ... **SOUL** ... be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Scripture, we read of '**the PEACE of GOD**' (Phil. 4:7) and the '**GOD of PEACE**' (Phil 4:9). The 'peace of God' is peace that is depictive of God; the '**God of Peace**' highlights **the source** of true peace and also isolates 'peace' as a key characteristic within God's compositional make-up. **Peace is not just something that God gives. Peace is that which He is.** God is able to impart peace, because He is peace. **You cannot have the 'peace of God' without embracing the 'God of peace'.** '**Peace**' is not so much an emotion or state of mind as much as it is a Person, viz. **God Himself**.

Eph. 2:14a For **He Himself** is our peace

2 Thess 3:16 Now may the **Lord of peace** Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

One of His redemptive names is "Jehovah Shalom". Gideon had the revelation of peace as being a core trait inherent within the very nature and character of God.

Judges 6:23 The LORD said to him, "**Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die.**"

Judges 6:24a Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it **The LORD is Peace**.

Peace Represents Military Might : Peace is Substantial Power, not Fragile or Brittle Weakness

Jesus is called "PRINCE OF PEACE".

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**.

Apostle Sam Soleyn offers interesting insight to the biblical idea of '**Peace**'. He explains the Hebrew word '**shalom**' and more specifically, that which translated '**Prince of Peace**' is comprised of four letters in the Hebrew, which is a language of pictures. Here are they:

'Shin'	=	to destroy
'Lamed'	=	authority
'Waw'	=	establish
'Men'	=	disorder

Hence God, as “**PRINCE OF PEACE**” = **The one who destroys the authority of the one that establishes disorder**

The term ‘prince’ indicates royalty and hence kingship, indicating powerful and incontestable governmental rule and authority. The domain over which God as King rules is called ‘peace’. **When peace, which defines who God inherently is, is expressed, it destroys the authority of satan who is intent upon establishing disorder.**

Peace implies the Absence of Confusion and Disorder. Good and proper order facilitates peace

So then, divine peace brings an end to **disorder and brings to bear upon our lives and circumstances, the divine order of God generating peace. A settled soul is a soul in divine order.**

1 Cor. 14:33 for God is not a God **of confusion** but **of peace**, as in all the churches of the saints.

Where you have divine peace, you have order and clarity, and the absence of confusion.

This itself is a prosperous condition, that will also preface and establish ideal conditions for varied expressions of total prosperity. **Wherever God’s order or way of doing things is observed, you will have a peaceful result.**

Even on a natural secular level, good order, management, organisation and planning also make for peaceful conditions. Proper prayerful planning prevents poor performance and perpetuates peaceable conditions, so preserving peace. It is amazing to me how simple good planning, sound management, effective organisation, the observation of good order and protocol can prevent strife, tension, disorder, chaos, confusion, etc. These issues are important for your total life prosperity.

Our Capacity to RULE as Kings depends on our Commitment to Righteousness and Peace.

We are priests unto God – more specifically high-priests in the order of Melchisedek just as Christ Jesus is. Melchisedek means King of Righteousness and King of Peace. He was a King-Priest of Salem, meaning Peace. Thus the jurisdiction over which He rules is righteousness and peace. Righteousness and Peace is the context over which Christ rules in us. Perceived differently, righteousness and peace are the factors that provide governmental power and authority to us in Christ. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

'PEACE' and 'KINGDOM OF GOD' are synonymous.

Peace, a result of righteousness and the basis of joy, is one of the practical expressions and indicators of the Kingdom of God – the rule of God.

Rom. 14:17 for the **kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and **peace** and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 32:17 And the **work of righteousness** will be **peace**,
And the **service of righteousness**, **quietness and confidence** forever.

Wherever you have God's government or Kingdom expressed, the outcome will always be righteousness, PEACE and joy ***IN THE HOLY GHOST***.

Note, the Kingdom of God is "PEACE" "IN THE HOLY GHOST". Peace is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Peace, without the Holy Ghost, is impossible.

Governmental Rule and Peace:

Isaiah 9:6-7

- 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 There will be **no end** to the **increase of His government or of peace**, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

Note here the mention of His government **AND** peace. His government is one of PEACE. **His peace is his empowerment to rule, and is also the outcome of His rule. So, too, must it be with us: Peace is our authorisation to represent God's government and rule upon the earth, and our claim to do so must have the evidence of peace as the result of every attitude we possess or act we do.**

The contrary should concern us, viz., that the absence of peace disqualifies our claim to divine governmental rule, or if there is consistent absence of peace resulting from our beliefs or behaviours, then we know we are not accurately representing the 'rule' of God in our world.

Note also that there is no end to the **INCREASE of His peace** and government. **Increasing peace must be an unending reality both within us as His sons, and among us relationally.**

You can grow in peace: **1 Peter 1:2** May grace and **peace** be yours in **the fullest measure**

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and **peace** **be multiplied to you**

God's **PEACE** in us must be '**GREAT**'.

Psalm 119:165 Those who love Your law have **GREAT PEACE**, and nothing causes them to stumble

Isaiah 54:13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children

RULING PEACE

Col. 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful

The peace of God must RULE in our hearts. The governing principle in our hearts must be 'the peace of Christ'.

Rule = brabeuo = to arbitrate; to govern; to prevail.

In the original Greek, it reads as follows: The peace of Christ must "**sit as the umpire**". Umpires or referees in sports have authority to ensure the rules of the game are adhered to, and if in any respect there is a contesting of opposing views as to the legality or illegality of an action, the umpire's decision is final. **Christ's peace is to be the umpire in our hearts.** His peace is the deciding factor. His peace within us determines whether we permit anything which will erode peace to persist. His peace can arrest bitterness, envy, anger, betrayal, disappointment, unforgiveness, etc. **Allow His peace to referee your life.**

In natural sports, no player or official on the field can rival or overpower the referee's decision. Do not allow any 'player' in your life – any negative emotion, experience or person to rival or challenge the God-given place of HIS PEACE within you.

Note the context of Col. 3:15 by studying the verse before and after it.

Col. 3:12-17

- 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;**
- 13 **bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**
- 14 **Beyond all these things PUT ON LOVE which is the perfect bond of unity.**
- 15 LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS, to which indeed you were called in **one body;** and be thankful.
- 16 Let the **word of Christ** richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- 17 **Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**

Note that the context in which we are called to ensure that the peace of God rules within our hearts is a BODY – more specifically, ONE Body (v.15) – stressing the ONE-NESS in the Body. Gratitude (“and be thankful” v.15) is further added as an essential disposition that must be factored into our beings. Consistent thanksgiving prevents complaining, which does not foster peaceful relationships.

Verse 12 and 13 lists essential traits of godly character, stressing ‘forgiveness’ at the end. Verse 14 then beckons us to be clothed with LOVE, the glue in our unity and one-ness. Then in this environment, the peace of God rules in your heart – in the context of your placement in a BODY of believers. Verse 16 implies that this will be maintained by the richly indwelling Word of God; and so too verse 17 further alludes to gratitude in all we do.

This is how we ensure that PEACE will RULE.

Col 3:15 (NLT) And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Peace must RULE the HEART: A troubled and fearful heart has absent peace.

John 14:27 **Peace** I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful

Peace is the antidote for being troubled and fearful.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

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'GOD OF PEACE' SCRIPTURES AND MORE PEACE PRINCIPLES

As we explore these scriptures, we shall simultaneously extrapolate some blessings of total prosperity that emerge from a peaceful state. Again, recall that it is the **GOD OF PEACE** that brings wholeness and completeness to your spirit, soul and body – 1 Thess. 5:23. **Total soul prosperity is a work of the 'God of Peace'.**

• GUARANTEED DIVINE PRESENCE BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE TO A FATHERING INSTRUCTION

Phil. 4:9 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**.

The presence of the 'God of Peace' is guaranteed to those who hear, listen and obey the instructions of their spiritual father. Paul writes the above scripture as a father speaking to spiritual children.

2 Cor. 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be **like-minded**, **live in peace**; and the **GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE** will be with you.

Note the commandments listed here:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - <u>Be made Complete</u> | - <u>Be Like-minded</u> |
| - <u>Be Comforted</u> | - <u>Live in Peace</u> |

If these are present, the God of Peace will be with us. An alternative way of reading this could be framed in the following terms: "If you claim that the God of Peace is present with you, then there will be completeness, comfort and like-mindedness and peaceable living."

One-ness, as suggested by 'like-minded', and 'live in peace' recruits the manifest presence of God too.

• IMPARTATION OF PEACE FROM APOSTOLIC SPIRITUAL FATHERS.

Apostolic salutations, valedictions and authoritative pronouncements of the abiding presence of the God of Peace is another avenue of experiencing intense levels of God's presence with us that we must be cognisant of. Paul consciously imparted peace from the 'God of Peace' in this way.

Rom. 15:33 Now the **GOD OF PEACE** be with you all. Amen

2 Pet. 1:2 **GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED** to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

JESUS Himself did this:

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;** not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful

John 20:19-23

- 19 So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “ **Peace be with you.**”
- 20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
- 21 So Jesus said to them again, “**Peace be with you;** as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”
- 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained

Receiving and then becoming the embodiment of peace is a prerequisite to effective apostolic function. Note here that before Jesus ‘SENDS’ (implying an apostolic call and work), He imparts peace to them. Apostles function in peace. Growing strongly in the nature of God as PEACE is critically essential to the administration of the apostolic mandate to forgive men their sins. He who forgives men their sins has of necessity got to be significantly PEACEFUL. Hence, if one is still contending with issues of personal strife and unforgiveness relationally, how can he forgive men their sins and so usher them into God’s Kingdom?

The twelve disciples who were sent by the Lord were to leave their peace on deserving households:

Matt. 10:11,13 As you enter the house, **give it your greeting.** If the house is worthy, give it **your blessing of peace.** But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace.

Acceptance of the one that Christ sends equates to acceptance of Christ Himself. Where there is open reception and honour of the one who is sent, they must consciously impart the PEACE of God to that household.

Luke 10:5,6 Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

The term ‘man of peace’ in the original Greek, is read literally as ‘SON OF PEACE’, i.e. a person inclined towards peace. Peace is characteristic of SONS of God. It is the SONS of GOD who are PEACEMAKERS.

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called **sons of God**

Cf. **1 Sam. 16:4** So Samuel did what the LORD said, and came to Bethlehem. And the **elders of the city** came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you **come in peace?**"

Isaiah 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who **announces peace** And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "**Your God reigns!**"

Aaron and his priestly sons were to impart peace to Israel:

Numbers 6:22-27

- 22 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
 23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, '**Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel.** You shall say to them:
 24 The Lord **bless you**, and **keep you**;
 25 The Lord make **His face shine on you**, And be **gracious** to you;
 26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And **GIVE YOU PEACE.**'
 27 So **they shall** invoke My name on the sons of Israel, **and I then will** bless them

To 'invoke My Name' literally means to 'put or place my nature' on them. Note that when Aaron and his sons do this, that God is literally doing this.

Numbers 16:27 Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them (CEV)

PEACE is part of who God is, and so the blessing of PEACE is a bold appropriation and impartation of the nature of God as PEACE upon His people.

Paul and other New Testament writers deliberately imparted peace to their readers in either or both of their salutations or valedictions, e.g. ...

Eph. 6:23 **Peace** be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the impartations of PEACE in the following Scriptures: Rom 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit 1:4; Phil 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:2b; 2 Pet. 1:2; 2 John 1:3; 3 John 1:15; Jud 1:2; Rev 1:4.

DIVINE PRESENCE AND PROSPERITY

The presence of the GOD OF PEACE brings prosperity. Many persons in the bible prospered because of the simple fact that God's presence was with them in a profound way – so can we. Some examples are cited below:

- ✓ **Joseph:** And the **Lord was with Joseph**, and **he was a prosperous** man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Gen 39:2-3 (KJV)

- ✓ **Hezekiah:** And **the Lord was with him**; and **he prospered** whithersoever he went forth.

2 Kings 18:7a (KJV)

- ✓ **David:** David became **greater and greater**, for the **Lord God of hosts was with him**.

2 Sam. 5:10 (Nasb)

I believe this 'presence' here is a reference to the manifest presence of God, and not primarily the indwelling presence of God in each son of God (although it may refer to it). Biblical total life prosperity is impossible without the manifest presence of the Lord within your life. The **ARK of the Covenant**, which depicted the presence and the glory of God, was housed in the house of Obed-Edom for three months. As a result of this, everything he had was blessed and he prospered.

2 Sam. 6:11-12 Thus the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed- edom the Gittite three months, and the **Lord blessed Obed- edom and all his household**. Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed- edom and all that belongs to him, **on account of the ark of God**."

EQUIPPED WITH EVERY GOOD THING TO DO GOD'S WILL

Heb. 13:20-21 Now the **GOD OF PEACE**, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, **equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Note here that equipment for Divine service – in doing His will and pleasing Him – is administered by the GOD OF PEACE. PEACE is therefore a most empowering and arming trait within the nature of God Himself.

Aside: His peaceful presence in us is the basis upon which all forms of prosperity will come to us. It has little to do with our efforts. It has all to do with His forceful presence and work in us.

Phil 2:12,13

- 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling;
13 **for it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure

In working out your own salvation, realise that it is God working in you. Simply tap into the work of God within you and allow Him to become all that He desires to be within you.

A reminder: God, who desires completeness and wholeness in our spirit, soul and body, has promised that He Himself, who is Faithful, has called us and promised this and that He Himself will ensure that it is attained.

1 Thess 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass

While we must not neglect our personal responsibility in this process (e.g. examine all things, and hold on to that which is good, abstain from all evil – 1 Thess. 5:21,22), we must rely upon His nature and work in us, and not so much upon our own efforts in the process.

It is even God's faith working in us, not so much 'our' faith. **Mark 11:22** says, "Have faith IN God". Some versions of the Bible, like the Modern King James Version render this as 'Have faith of God', i.e. literally, have the God-kind of faith.

THE CRUSHING OF SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET

Rom. 16:19,20 For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. The **GOD OF PEACE** will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Note here that there is first the report on OBEDIENCE, and then a command to be wise as to what is good, and to be innocent and guileless in what is evil. On this basis, the God of Peace will crush satan under your feet.

Note Three Issues Here:

1. Notable Obedience - implied by the REPORT of your obedience.
2. Being wise at what is good.
3. Being innocent of evil.

The result? The God of Peace will crush satan underneath your feet. **Feet speak of deliberate mobility in the obedient execution of a task.** So as you take steps in obeying God, any resistance from satan will be obliterated, i.e. you will prosper in the accomplishment of any task. And this crushing of satan will be done SOON – i.e. in haste or with speed. There will be acceleration and no delays.

Feet also indicate **preparedness to preach the Gospel of Peace.**

Eph. 6:15 and having shod your feet with the **preparation of the gospel of peace.**

When your message is timeous, relevant to a specific karios in God (as hinted at by the Greek word translated 'beautiful'), and is one of peace and reconciliation, you have 'beautiful feet', and under this quality of feet will satan be crushed. God has chosen our feet under which to crush satan – and it will be done by the God of Peace under our feet which are readied to preach peace to men.

GUARDED HEART AND MIND - NO ANXIETY

One of the expressions of REST in our lives is to be **anxiety-free** in the face of dire need or fiery trial, knowing that God will provide and take care of us.

Phil 4:6-9

- 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 comprehension, will **guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**.
- 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things**.
- 9 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.

Letting our request be made known to God sounds contrary to Matthew 6:8, which teaches that even before we ask, our Father already knows what our needs are, but it is not. Note that the emphasis is on prayer and supplication with **THANKSGIVING**. It seems that it is not so much as informing God of what we need, as much as it is **faith-filled THANKSGIVING** that the need is already met. This attitude of faith and gratitude keeps us **anxiety-free**.

Then, God's peace protects our hearts and minds, which sometimes wane in respect to unswerving trust in God. God's peace itself will protect our heart and mind.

Guard = phruoreo = to be a **watcher in advance**;
to mount **guard as a sentinel** (post spies at the gate);
to hem in or **protect as with a garrison**.

The peace of God literally forms a garrison of protection around our hearts and minds so that no anxiety, unbelief or fear may enter. In this state, we are then encouraged to think of very specific things – focusing on them – dwelling on them (v.8); and then (in v.9) as we heed instruction from spiritual fathering, the GOD OF PEACE guarantees His presence with us.

The ability to be 'still' is indicative of Divine peace's presence. Stillness here might not necessarily mean being physically still, but alludes more to an internal disposition within your mind – one at rest and in confident repose, without any anxiety or disorientation, especially in the face of severe need or serious threat on personal well-being or safety,

STILLNESS AND PEACE POSITIONS YOU FOR INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

<u>Psalms 46:10a</u>	KJV	:	“Be still, and <u>know</u> that I am God.”
	NASB	:	Cease striving and know that I am God.
	BBE	:	Be at peace in the knowledge that I am God.
	CEV	:	Calm down and learn that I am God.
	GW	:	Let go of your concerns! Then you will know that I am God.

Note: ‘Be Still and Know’. Being ‘still’ is a necessary pre-requisite and important internal and at times external posture, that facilitates our entry into a more profound understanding and experiential knowledge of God. Consider how Mary SAT still at Jesus’ feet and HEARD His Word, while Martha was ‘distracted’ by much activity.

Consider God’s word to Israel on two separate occasions:

Exod. 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, **stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord**, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever **(KJV)**

2 Chron. 20:17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: **set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you**, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you **(KJV)**.

It is a good habit to **practice ‘silence’ and ‘quietness’** – so as to hear God more clearly. **‘Stillness’ positions us for greater prophetic sight**. Note: Stand still ‘AND SEE’. **Perspective is sharpened when we stop moving and attempt to frantically or frenetically manoeuvre things in our own strength.**

Meditate on the three-fold command given in 2 Chron. 20:17 above:

- (1) Set Yourself;**
- (2) Stand Still;**
- (3) See Salvation.**

Each successive step here pre-supposes the one before, i.e. you cannot see God’s salvation if you are not still, and you cannot be still until you have set, stationed or positioned yourself.

The Example of Jesus in the Boat in the Midst of a Storm

SLEEP IN YOUR STORM – THEN SPEAK TO YOUR STORM.

“Before Jesus calmed the storm, He first slept in the storm. He demonstrated to His disciples, that no matter what the external conditions are, you must master internal rest and peace. You can only authoritatively command your storm, when you have mastered it by resting in it. You cannot speak to your storm, until you have learned how to sleep (rest) in your storm.” **(Apostle Thamo Naidoo)**

Jesus, from an internal posture of great peace, was able to alter His external environment, making it compliant to His internal state. Peace is by no means a position of weakness or fragility, but great strength and power.

SLEEP

Who does not enjoy a good night's sleep? Sleep is the best form of rest in the natural. Sleep depicts a state of rest and replenishment. One of the outworkings of the SPIRITUAL REST principle is that you will enjoy your natural sleep, even when facing mountainous needs or challenges. Undisturbed sleep (unless you are awoken by the Lord for some reason) depicts peace and rest and implies total trust in God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps. It suggests no worry, anxiety or fear attendant with the next days ahead. I believe that true divine peace will also manifest itself in us having a good night's restful sleep. Here are some encouraging Scriptures:

Psalms 4:8 In **peace** I will both **lie down and sleep**, For You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety.

Job 11:17 You will **lie down**, and none will make you afraid; many will court your favor.

Psalms 3:1-6 (ESV)

David wrote this Psalm when he fled from Absalom, his son

- 1 O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;
- 2 Many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God. Selah
- 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.
- 4 I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah
- 5 **I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.**
- 6 **I will not be afraid** of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

Psalms 121:1-8

- 1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not allow your foot to slip; **He who keeps you will not slumber.**
- 4 Behold, **He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- 5 The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade on your right hand.
- 6 The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord will **guard your going out and your coming in** From this time forth and forever

Proverbs 3:21-26

- 21 My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,
- 22 So they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck.
- 23 Then you will walk in your way securely And your foot will not stumble.
- 24 **When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.**
- 25 **Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;**
- 26 For the Lord will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught

Prov. 6:20-23

- 20 My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.
 21 Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck.
 22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you;
 and **when you awake, they will talk with you.**
 23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are
 the way of life

Jer. 31:23-26

- 23 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, "Once again they will speak this word in the
 land of Judah and in its cities **when I restore their fortunes**, 'The Lord bless you, O abode of
 righteousness, O holy hill! '
 24 Judah and all its cities will dwell together in it, the farmer and they who go about with flocks.
 25 For I **satisfy the weary ones** and **refresh everyone who languishes.**"
 26 **At this I awoke** and looked, and my **sleep was pleasant to me**

Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For
He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.

Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own.

1 Sam. 25:6 (NLT)

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