

## THE PATHWAY TO PEACE

### Jehovah-Shalom = "I AM the God of Peace"

📖 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NIV84) "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

📖 John 14:27 (NIV84) "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

#### THREE THINGS BLAMED FOR LOST PEACE

1. When **circumstances** are **uncontrollable**.
2. When **people** are **unreliable**.
3. When **problems** are **unfixable**.

#### I. ACCEPT **WHAT CANNOT BE CHANGED**.

📖 2 Samuel 12:16–24 (NIV84) "David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. <sup>17</sup> The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. <sup>18</sup> On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate." <sup>19</sup> David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead." <sup>20</sup> Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. <sup>21</sup> His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" <sup>22</sup> He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.' <sup>23</sup> But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." <sup>24</sup> Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon."

#### The Serenity Prayer

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can  
And wisdom to know the difference:

Living one day at a time,

Enjoying one moment at a time:

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace:

Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is not as I would have it:

Trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will:

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life

And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.


📖 Philippians 4:11b–13 (NIV84) "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

## II. TRUST GOD AND KNOW THAT HE CARES.

- 📖 Isaiah 26:3 (NCV) “You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on You, because they trust You.”
- 📖 Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”
- 📖 Philippians 4:6–7 (NIV84) “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

## III. SURRENDER IT ALL TO GOD.

- 📖 Psalm 119:165 (NCV) “Those who love your teachings will find true peace, and nothing will defeat them.”
- 📖 Romans 8:6 (NLT) “If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.”
- 📖 Romans 5:1 (ESV) “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Digging Deeper** How are you doing? —No, really? As circumstances around you rage out of control, as people that you should have been able to depend on let you down, as problems stack up and seem to be beyond fixing, how are you holding up?  How is your peace? Pastor Mike talked about the Pathway to Peace involving acceptance, trust, & surrender. In what ways do you need to implement those three steps into your life? When will you start? Do you know Jesus, the Prince of Peace, personally? —If you're not sure, would you let Pastor Mike know that today?