

PEACE

FINDING PEACE WITH GOD

The dictionary defines “Peace” as a state of harmony between people or groups, freedom from strife, and reconciliation between parties at war. The absence of peace means no connection in any relationship. Until we have peace with God, we cannot have peace with ourselves and our world.

How do we have peace with God? How can we be in harmony with God? The existence of many religions in the world today reveals human's need to be at peace with God his creator. Religion, unfortunately, offers rules and sometimes a heavy burden to bear, yet still, peace with God has not been achieved. The existence of religions today has been man's efforts to achieve harmony with his creator. Dissatisfaction with the quality of our lives, our efforts to be good, and the guilt and shame we feel reveal the human need to be at peace with God. The Bible says about people, “the way of peace have they not known, and there is No Fear of God in them” **Romans 3:17-18**. We can all agree with the Bible's verdict that “All have sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard.” **Romans 3:23**.

To understand peace with God, we need to understand the grace of God. The good news is that God wants us to be at peace with him and in a harmonious relationship with him, much more than we desire peace with God, also God has already provided a way of peace between him and people because of his love for humanity. That is the reason Jesus came, not to bring a dead religion with set of rules, but a harmonious relationship with Father God. Hear what the angels announced during the birth of Christ; “And the Angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, *peace*, goodwill toward men.” **Luke 2:10**. The gospel of Jesus Christ is basically the gospel of peace. [Good news about reconciliation. Jesus came primarily to restore people back to a harmonious relationship with God. How? By taking away what hindered our relationship with God. What hindered our

relationship with God is SIN. The Bible says, “For your iniquities have separated between you and your God” **Isaiah 59:2**.

But now, this is the grace of God; because every wrongdoing deserves a penalty and has consequences which we could not pay, “for the wages of sin is death” **Romans 6:33**. God sent his Son Jesus Christ in our place. He paid for our penalty and took the consequences of our wrongdoing by dying in our place on the cross. “Here in his love, not that we loved God, but he loved us and sent his son to be the appeasement for our sins” **1 John 4:10**. The chastisement for our peace was upon him. The good news is that now there is no hindrance to our relationship with God. The way of peace has been made. Our sin debt, Past, present, and future has been paid in full by Christ. The Bible says, “for it pleased the Father that in Jesus should all fullness dwell and having made **PEACE** through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things onto himself and you that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works yet now has he reconciled.” **Colossians 1:19-21**. You have been reconciled to God. Again, the Bible declares “But now in Christ Jesus, you who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For He's our **PEACE**” **Ephesians 2:13-14**. The Bible affirms “For there is one God and one mediator between God and People, the man Christ Jesus” **1 Timothy 2:5**.

This is the gift of God. For by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourself, not of works: it is the gift of God”. What should we do now? Like every other gift, we receive the gift offered to us, a gift of love. You have already been reconciled to God through the works of Jesus Christ. **BELIEVE** that Jesus has paid for your wrongs. Respond to him on Thanksgiving. **RECIEVE** a new life and live accordingly. You can now pray this prayer by faith, “for without faith it is impossible to please God” **Hebrew 11:6**.

PRAYER: Father, I repent of my sins. I thank you for your love and for your Son Jesus Christ, thank you for reconciling me back to you. I receive your forgiveness and peace and a new life. I declare that Jesus Christ is my Saviour and the Lord of my life. Amen. “Being justified by faith. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” **Romans 5:1**.

Welcome to the family of God. And welcome to a new relationship with God.

