

The Way of Peace

- Wayne Dailey

Isaiah 59:8

The way of peace they know not;
and there is no judgment in their goings:
they have made them crooked paths:
whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

The way of peace they know not.

How about you? Are you really walking in the way of peace? Can you honestly testify that you have the peace of God ruling in your heart?

Isaiah 57:10

Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way;
yet saidst thou not, There is no hope:
thou hast found the life of thine hand;
therefore thou wast not grieved.

Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way.
There's a marked difference between your way
and the way of peace.

Isaiah 57:14-15

And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way,
take up the stumblingblock out of the way
of My people.

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

So many do their own thing, and go their own way searching for peace - but never find it

God is speaking about the attitude you need to have if you expect to obtain His peace. He speaks of a broken and contrite spirit, of being humble before Him.

You have to get rid of that **big me** attitude. You have to break the hardness in your heart, and manifest a true brokenness before God.

God has His ways of bringing you into such a brokenness.

Isaiah 57:16,19

For I will not contend for ever,
neither will I be always wroth:
for the spirit should fail before Me,
and the souls which I have made.

I create the fruit of the lips;
Peace, peace to him that is far off,
and to him that is near, saith the Lord;
and I will heal him.

In these Scripture passages we get a look into what real peace is all about.

God points out to us that if we're ever going to have His peace within He has to do a work in our hearts.

When we're willing to be broken in humility, then God will heal us.

He won't deal with us forever. He wants to bring us into the way of peace.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.



Jesus spoke here of something He was doing for us. **Peace I leave with you.** Then He goes on to describe what kind of peace He was leaving with us - His peace, not the kind the world offers.

Lots of folks want peace -
but they can't seem to find it.

James 4:2b

Ye have not, because ye ask not.

We won't find this peace by looking for it on our own. It can't be attained without the Lord. We can only have it by turning to Jesus, and receiving it from Him. After all, it's His peace - and He wants to give it to us.

If we'd simply ask for the peace of Jesus in the midst of a storm, we'd ride those storms a lot more comfortably.

Now, peace is usually used with other words to identify what it is:

Peace comes after war
after trouble
after a storm



Yes, peace arrives on the scene **after** we've gone through something.

But real peace is deeper than the peace that follows wars, follows troubles, follows storms.

Look at the peace that was in the life of Jesus when He was living upon this earth. Look at His conduct in the midst of the hottest trials and battles.

Jesus knew His time was short as He watched Judas approaching with a band of soldiers. In the midst of such a time, Jesus showed us the reality of **His peace**.

They came and led Him away to the house of the high priest - where He was accused and mocked.

They spat in His face,
and plucked out His beard.
They hit Him across the face,
and made fun of Him.

But in the midst of it all, He was still in perfect peace - and that is the same peace He has left with us.

Do you have this peace in the midst of your trials? or are you vexed by your troubles -

to the point of not knowing where to turn,
wringing your hands in despair.

Do you head for the medicine cabinet for a tranquilizer? Listen, there's no peace in a pill!

Jesus didn't ask for a glass of water and a pill. He had peace inside that no storm was able to disturb - no matter how fierce the winds blew.

They led Him away from that confrontation to the judgment hall. There Pontius Pilate scourged Him, and He was mocked even more.

In the presence of Pilate, Jesus demonstrated what it was to have such an unshakable peace.

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.

Why should He say anything to His accusers?

After all, He was at peace. He wasn't troubled about what was happening to Him. Before He ever came into this world, He knew He was coming for such an hour.

Before they arrested Jesus, He had prayed through in the garden. He was ready to face what lay ahead.

Yes, to do the Father's will was peace and joy to Jesus. He had surrendered His will unto His Father.

There in Pilate's judgment hall, Jesus demonstrated to us **the way of peace**.

Matthew 27:28-31

And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head.

And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and put His own raiment on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

In the midst of all this, Jesus remained unwavering in His peace. Nothing could penetrate through that peace.

With a wooden cross weighing Him down; His back bleeding and raw from being beaten with many stripes; and a crown of thorns on His head - He still kept that peace.

As He proceeded through the crowd to Calvary, some of the onlookers began to weep and cry because He was suffering so.

They were the ones who needed to seek out peace; but He kept calm.

When they arrived at Calvary, they lay Jesus down on the cross. Then they began to nail Him to it. My, even in this, Jesus simply let peace reign in His heart and soul.

In fact, Jesus had such a strong peace that He was able to pray in the midst of all that suffering, **Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**

You have to have **real peace** to say that at such a time as this. It didn't seem to matter that those spikes were tearing His flesh! It didn't seem to matter that His body ached with pain! Jesus still kept His peace.

This is the kind of peace we need. When we have this peace nothing will be able to disturb it. Then we will be able to retain the victory in the midst of every storm.

The peace the world gives is here today and gone tomorrow. But the peace Jesus gives is permanent.

There are a lot of places in this life where we need to gain peace. Does the peace of God rule and reign in your house?

But, Brother Dailey, if you had a family like mine, you wouldn't kid yourself into expecting any peace!

I want you to know you can have peace at home - if you have the peace that Jesus promised to give you. I don't care what kind of battle-axe you live with. You can have peace in the midst of every storm.

Yes, you can have peace, no matter how drunk your husband gets, no matter how angry your wife is.

Jesus had a lasting peace that went with Him all the way to Calvary. Certainly He is able to give you peace in your home.

Yes, you can have peace within - no matter how much the battle is raging without.

We usually base our peace on circumstances. If nothing goes wrong, we feel at peace. But, just as soon as something happens . . .

. . . our peace is gone!

The peace that Jesus gives lasts. It doesn't come by having everybody keep their mouths shut and constantly smiling. The peace that Jesus gives doesn't come by marrying someone who is sweet all the time.

Jesus wants to give you His peace, regardless of the circumstances you live in. You can be surrounded by battles and fierce testings, and still retain the peace which Jesus gives.

When Paul and Silas were thrown into jail, they found, of a truth, that this peace passes all understanding. Though they were bound in stocks, and their backs were raw and bleeding, they were able to sing praises to God at midnight. Peace was certainly at work in their hearts.

A prison is a terrible place to have to live day after day. But if you're there for Jesus, it can be a place of blessing and peace.

This peace doesn't change your surroundings. No, it changes you - in your surroundings.

Another area where we find peace is in knowing.

There's a deep peace to those who know that they're in the center of God's will: it doesn't matter what happens, or how hard the trials are, because they know they are right where God would have them to be.

I meet many folks who have no real peace. After I talk with them awhile, I can see why they have no peace.

They say that God told them to do something, and they never went and did it. They tell how God called them years ago - but they've never done anything to fulfill that call.

And then they wonder why they have no peace.

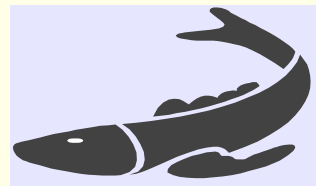
Hey, when you live in a troubled ship like that, there is no peace!

You can't run from God and expect to have peace. Jonah found that out.

Jonah took a ship to get away from the call of God. Though he lay fast asleep in the storm, God was at work. Jonah had no peace - he knew he was running from the will of God.

God was dealing. A storm began to endanger the lives of the men on that ship. Jonah told the mariners that the storm would stop if they threw him overboard. At first, the mariners didn't want to do anything as drastic as that. But finally things got so bad that they heaved Jonah into the sea.

Jonah soon found himself swallowed by a great fish. He spent three days and nights in that supernatural submarine. God knew how to teach Jonah that he should never have tried to run from His will.



Jonah could have had peace in his heart if he'd only done what God told him to do. He could have been busy for the Lord, instead of riding around in the dark inside that giant fish.

The way of peace was gone from Jonah. He certainly was a hard one to give peace to.

Finally, in desperation, he began to seek God. He began to humble himself and to ask forgiveness. And God heard his cry and delivered him onto the shore.

Once again, God told Jonah to go to Ninevah. I'll tell you, Jonah got there as fast as he could!

One never knows what the will of God might cost. You don't know where it might take you. But one thing is sure. When you're in the center of God's will, you have peace.

Where are you today?
Are you in the will of God?

Let's take a look at the lasting peace of Jesus.

He was weary and tired from long, hard meetings. Day after day He ministered to the multitudes. Many times He didn't even have a chance to eat.

He ministered for hours at a time. **Yet He always was at peace.**

One day Jesus went with the disciples on a ship to get to the other side of the sea. Being a man of peace, He lay down and fell fast asleep.

The winds began to blow and the waves began to beat against that ship. It started to fill up with water as the storm became greater. But Jesus slept on - filled with peace.

The disciples began to fear because it looked like the ship would sink. In their frustration, they didn't know what to do! Finally, one of them woke Jesus.

Mark 4:38

And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish?

Jesus was at peace, while they worried about perishing. The storm bothered everybody - except the Master. It didn't disturb His peace.

This is a good example of the way you should live. Things may be rough at your house, but that shouldn't hinder your peace.

Mark 4:39

And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still.
And the wind ceased,
and there was a great calm.

Let faith possess your soul. Let this faith, that ought to be there, grow in you. It will bring you to the place of having peace with God - no matter how fierce the storm.



Jesus is fully qualified to give a lasting peace. He told us that this peace was His peace. Possessing such perfect peace, He certainly was able to give it to others.

Mark 4:40

And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful?
how is it that ye have no faith?

Just at He spoke - there was instant peace.

Can He bring you into the state of peace in one moment's time?

Can He give you peace in the midst of those troubles?

Can He give lasting peace without changing your circumstances?

Can He give such peace that you can soundly sleep every night, no matter what's gone wrong?

Yes, He can give you such a deep settled peace that you'll firmly stand through every stormy blast. If you're troubled, you don't have peace. **You're either going to be troubled - or you're going to be at peace. There is no in between.**

Too often we condition ourselves to expecting peace to come - only if our surroundings change. Jesus could have peace while the ship was filling up with water; while the clouds were rolling, and the wind was howling - yet the disciples had no peace until Jesus commanded the storm to stop.

What did the disciples learn from this experience? Did they gain anything spiritually?

Mark 4:41

**And they feared exceedingly,
and said one to another,
What manner of man is this,
that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

They didn't get the message!

Jesus wasn't trying to show them how He could stop the wind. He wanted to give them an example of the peace that was theirs to have.

And Jesus wants to get this same message across to you, today. He wants you to realize that you can be in the midst of the storms of life - and still sleep. He wants to show you that you don't have to toss and turn all night, worrying about your problems.

You don't have to be affected by what's going on around about you.

You ought to know that the devil is real, and that he's your enemy; but you should also keep in mind that Jesus defeated him two thousand years ago.

So why worry? Why run on a treadmill all day, fretting and fuming?

**Jesus said He gave you His peace -
so take it.**

We have every reason to be at peace, knowing that the devil is defeated. My, Jesus openly put him to shame - and then told us to trample on his head!

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power
to tread on serpents and scorpions,
and over all the power of the enemy:
and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

When we're not at peace it's because we're not believing what Jesus told us.

The Holy Spirit will minister peace to us - if we will only believe, and seek it out. But we've got to come to the place where we really want it.

Isaiah 53:5

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon Him;
and with His stripes we are healed.

What did the Lord mean by this?

When you read through **Isaiah 53**, you begin to realize how much Jesus suffered so we could be made whole.

Realize that if Jesus went through this so we could have peace, then it's a shame if we don't.

Chastisement: to be chastened, or corrected. Our Lord had to be chastened for us.

Yes, Jesus was chastised so you could have lasting peace in your heart and soul. Therefore it's a discredit to Him when you run around in fear every time you face a storm.

There is no reason for you to suffer anything Jesus has suffered for you.

You don't have to be wounded for your transgressions - because Jesus was wounded in your place.

You don't have to pay for your sins - His blood was shed to purchase your salvation.

You don't have to bear stripes to provide for your health - Jesus did it for you.

And Jesus also took a crown of thorns upon His head that you might have peace of mind. They smote that crown into His head with a rod. Imagine how painful those thorns were, digging into His skull. But He endured it to provide you with perfect peace.

Now, you may go about with a big smile on your face - **but do you have the peace of God dwelling within?** You can look like you have peace - **but if you don't actually have it, then God wants to give it to you.** Take it - it's yours.

Think about how you react to the troubles that are going on around about you. Your reactions will show you whether or not you lack this deep settled peace.

You can have the same troubles you have today - and yet have the sweet peace of God in the midst of those troubles.

The winds can rage and the waves come into your ship, until it seems the ship will sink - and, yet, you can still have perfect peace.

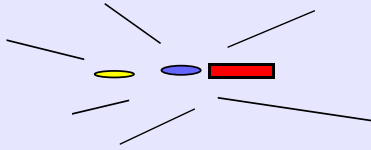
God wants His church to be strong and to be at peace. He wants us to reflect His peace - when it looks like everything is ready to fall apart.

Troubles will be around us until the day Jesus comes in the clouds. We have no promises in the Bible that all troubles will vanish until then.

The Lord never promised to smooth the road and remove all of our trials. But He did say that He wanted to give us peace.

It's His peace working in us that will bring us into a relationship where it won't matter what happens. His peace will bring us into a deeper experience with Him. We should seek that out.

WE WALKED AWAY



Well, here we go, Dennis!

Just as I said this to my son, the impact came! And in a few minutes we climbed out of the wreck, praising God.

Yes, the peace that Jesus gives is a lasting peace.

It was a rainy morning as we drove down the Southeast Expressway. The yellow VW in front of us seemed to be out of control, swerving like a snake in front of us. I figured it would be useless to try to pass it without smashing, so I began to slow down.

Just then both Dennis and I saw the truck coming at us from behind! The impact was so great that our seats snapped, and we found ourselves lying flat as though they were beds.

The back window shattered, sending glass all over us - even into my mouth - but miraculously, none of it cut our faces. And, though we had our eyes open, none went into our eyes.

Almost at the same time, another car crashed into my son's side of our car. It pushed it in to where, when we finally got out, we had to climb out the driver's side.

This second crash threw our car and it hit a high curb. It felt like we were in an airplane, as we went up over the side, and down the embankment - where we finally came to a stop.

As we got out of the car, completely whole, we had much cause to lift our voices in praise to the Lord. We were completely whole! whereas the car was a total wreck.

The only thing to show for it was a small scrape on my son's leg. I had a pain in my neck when I got home. But my wife prayed, and it left.

Thank God for the reality of His peace in the storm!