



Divine Peace

Shalom

The Peace That Surpasses All Understanding — The Goal of Faith and the Salvation of the Soul

"...for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:9)

Among the many dimensions of the word salvation — soteria — one stands out as both deeply personal and profoundly practical: Shalom. This is not the shallow peace that the world offers, the kind that depends on circumstances being comfortable and threats being absent. Shalom is a divine peace that takes up residence within a believer at the moment of the new birth. It is already there. But like a treasure buried in a field, it must be discovered and entered into.

Divine peace — Shalom — has been inside you since the moment of your new birth. But you must become aware of it and step into it. A peace you do not know you possess is a peace you cannot use.

I. The Surrendered Mind — The Condition for Possessing Shalom

Divine peace is not automatic — it is cultivated when the mind is fully surrendered to the Word of God. An unsaved mind behaves like the waves of the sea: rising in moments of elation, crashing in moments of crisis, perpetually unstable. But a mind filled with God's Word is like a ship anchored in the storm — the waves rage around it, but it does not capsize.

When Shalom genuinely inhabits your mind, a spiritual phenomenon takes place: every thought that comes at you from the outside — fear, anxiety, threat — is automatically



subjected to the Word of God and disappears. Evil spirits may want to harm you, but they cannot terrorize you, because you are surrounded by the fortress of Shalom.

Illustration: On one occasion, the Jews attempted to throw Jesus off a cliff. They pushed Him to the very edge of the precipice. But Jesus was filled with divine peace — He was not afraid. And suddenly, He vanished from among them. The lesson: when you are fully aware of the Shalom within you while you are inside the danger, that peace swallows the danger itself.

II. The Old Covenant and the New — Understanding the Essential Difference

To understand the peace of God in the New Covenant correctly, we must first understand the fundamental difference between the two covenants. Many Christians make the mistake of reading verses written to the Jews under the Old Covenant and trying to apply them directly to themselves.

The principle of the Old Covenant: The Law — God does not move unless you first fulfill your obligation to Him. Every blessing was conditional on human obedience. "If you do this... you will receive that."

The principle of the New Covenant: Grace — Jesus died for sinners before they repented, carrying their sins and shame without requiring them to meet any conditions first. God's gifts in the New Covenant carry no repentance or reversal — they were paid for once and for all eternity.

The believer in the New Covenant — even when they sin — does not lose the blessing, because God sees us through grace and righteousness. Every sin we commit was already carried by the Lord Jesus on the cross, once and forever.

A clarifying example: Jesus said to the Jews under the Law: "But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:15) — This was conditional language spoken to people living under the Law, before the cross. But after the resurrection



of Christ and the gift of grace, everything changed. The four Gospels contain teaching about what would come after the cross and resurrection, including:

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Righteousness came as a gift at the resurrection of Christ — He gave us the nature of righteousness freely. And from that moment, Jesus began teaching about the new peace He was leaving behind:

John 14:27

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.

This is Christ's own peace — the peace He carried throughout His entire earthly life, undisturbed regardless of what He faced: rejection, threat, betrayal, death. It is a peace that does not depend on external circumstances, but flows from the unshakeable knowledge of the Father.

The first step toward the salvation of your soul is to realize that you already possess divine peace — Shalom. What you do not know you have, you cannot use.

III. Joy and Peace — Paul's Teaching from Inside Prison

One of the greatest testimonies to the power of Shalom is that Paul wrote his deepest teaching on joy and peace while sitting behind bars — in the prison at Philippi, one of the harshest prisons of his era. These were not the words of a philosopher. They were the testimony of a man who had proven them under fire:

Philippians 4:4–9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.



Let us stop at each phrase and understand its true meaning:

"Rejoice in the Lord always": Joy is an internal decision, not an external response. You do not depend on the world around you in order to rejoice. You choose with your spirit to rejoice — and your emotions will follow your spirit, not the other way around.

"Let your gentleness be evident": Gentleness means steadiness and calm — being someone who is not rattled by the things happening around you. Not swept away by every wave and every pressure.

"Do not be anxious about anything": This does not mean ignoring your responsibilities — it means you are not trembling in terror before any challenge. You move, you act, you take responsibility — but from a position of peace, not panic.

"By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving": Prayer here is not endless repetition of the same request. Once is enough — because the Lord said "I know your needs before you ask." Then thanksgiving — because thanksgiving is faith spoken in the past tense, before you see the answer.

And the result? "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds." When you stop mentally wrestling with the danger in front of you and hand it to God, the peace of God intervenes — a peace deeper than any human logic can explain or contain.

Paul then closes with the prescription for a healthy mind in verse 8: think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable. The thoughts you feed are the thoughts that grow and fill your mind. A mind cannot remain empty — either God fills it, or the enemy does.

Without peace, you cannot build anything. Think of a country in a constant state of war — it cannot develop or flourish. But when peace comes, construction begins and prosperity follows. Your soul works in exactly the same way.

Proverbs 14:30

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Your inner peace does not only affect your soul — it reaches your body and brings healing. And the reverse is equally true: the loss of peace, anxiety, and envy eat away at the bones and make the body sick from the inside out.



IV. The Shunammite Woman — Shalom in the Face of Death

One of the most powerful stories in all of Scripture that embodies the true force of Shalom is the story of the Shunammite woman and the prophet Elisha, found in 2 Kings 4:8–35. Let us walk through it carefully:

Background: A Great Woman with an Even Greater Faith

The Shunammite woman was great — great in faith before she was great in status. She noticed Elisha passing by her home and stopped him to eat, and then persuaded her husband to build him a small furnished room in the upper part of the house — a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. She did this out of pure service, asking nothing in return. And from this service came the fulfillment of a divine promise: a son was born to her in her old age.

The Crisis: The Son Dies

Then came the day when the boy went out to his father in the field and cried out: "My head, my head!" He collapsed and died on his mother's lap by noon. What did this mother do?

Step one: She did not wail or fall apart. She carried her dead son upstairs and laid him on the bed of the man of God, closed the door on him, and walked out.

Step two: She did not tell her husband what had happened. When he asked: "Why are you going to him today? It is not the New Moon or the Sabbath" — she answered with one word: "Shalom" — Peace.

Step three: She rode directly to Mount Carmel to find Elisha. When Elisha sent his servant Gehazi to ask her: "Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?" — she answered: "Shalom."

Her son was dead in her arms, and she was saying: "Peace." This was not denial of reality — this was faith that refuses to call what it sees by a name that should not be permanent. She knew that the last word did not belong to death. The last word belonged to God.



Why Did She Not Tell Her Husband?

This question carries deep teaching. This woman's faith was greater than her husband's faith. Had she told him, his distress would have hindered her journey — because he did not possess the Shalom that she carried. A person without divine peace does not help you in a moment of crisis — they add their own crisis on top of yours.

In the most dangerous moments of your life, you need to be surrounded by people who carry Shalom — not people who transfer their anxiety to you.

The Ending: Shalom Swallows Death

The woman clung to Elisha and would not let him go. When Elisha entered the room, he found the boy lying dead on the bed. He closed the door, prayed to God, and then stretched himself over the boy — and the body grew warm. He walked back and forth in prayer, then stretched over the boy again — and the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

The Shalom this mother carried in the face of death brought her all the way to the man of God without stopping. And Elisha's prayer — from a place of complete peace — opened a door that death could not keep shut.

The lesson: Shalom is not the denial of reality — it is the unshakeable certainty that God is greater than any reality. And it is precisely this certainty that moves the hand of God in the crisis.

Conclusion: Shalom — The First Step Toward the Salvation of Your Soul

Divine peace is not a spiritual luxury — it is a necessity. Without it, your soul remains an open battlefield. With it, you become a fortress that circumstances cannot breach.

Shalom means: Your mind is fully surrendered to the Word of God — so every intruding thought is automatically subjected to the Word and disappears.



Shalom means: Your joy is an internal decision — governed not by events but by your knowledge of God.

Shalom means: You can stand before death itself and say "Peace" — because you know who holds the final word.

Shalom means: Your body receives healing and your life begins to flourish — because a heart at peace is life to the body.

***Become aware of the Shalom already within you —
and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your
heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.***

