

WHERE PEACE COMES FROM

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

Isaiah 9:6 and John 14:25-27

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

December 11, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

We live in a world that longs for PEACE ... the absence of conflict and the end of war.

Global peace – Egypt, Lybia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq; not to mention Africa. Fomenting discontent. Occupy LA right here in the middle of our city.

Peace at home – Christmas chaos; *Christ came to bring peace and we celebrate his coming by making peace impossible for six weeks of each year* —A.W. Tozer ill. Four Christmases

Church – Church is supposed to be the safest place on earth. Sanctuary / Peace.

Ill. Dog named Peace. “I’m not about to let peace come into this church.” Sliding through my lips.

Season of Joy and Peace. Wonder and Awe.

What is Peace and where does it come from?

Bible uses two words. One Hebrew, other Greek ...

𐤑𐤍𐤔 – **Shalom = wholeness.** Whenever Israeli’s (Jews) greet they use this word ... WHOLENESS, COMPLETE, SECURE, FULL. The best quality you can wish for someone.

Ill. Prayers answered, goals met. All is right with the world feeling.

εἰρήνη – **eirene = safe.** Greeks living under the blessed rule of Rome, peace is living under the rule of a benevolent, just ruler in a safe, well-ordered and prosperous city-state.

Ill. someone to call when you are in trouble, defend you, 911 help you, protect you, put the fires out.

The rule of law ... obedience brings blessing, violations bring consequences.

Peace is so much more than the absence of conflict. Hard to describe. You’ll know it when you find it.

Where does peace with God come from?

Please Open your Bibles to Isaiah 9. **Page 489** Familiar Christmas Scripture

Written 700 years before birth of Messiah. **Jesus is our Peace-Maker. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.**

Beginning in vs. 6 Read through vs. 7.

Prophecy ... The name for the promised deliverer is PRINCE OF PEACE. **Sar Shalom.** Authority to rule.

Ill. Story of Jesus asleep in then back of the boat. **Mark 4:37 ESV³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.**

Jesus is the one who calms the wind and the waves. Authority.

Jesus is our Peace-Maker. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We can go to sleep at night knowing awake.

In obedience to Father. Stepped out of heaven and was born a man. Swaddling cloths?

Peace not just found through Jesus, but peace is found in Jesus. There is no peace with God apart from Jesus. Righteous sacrifice, satisfied God.

The only way to make PEACE WITH GOD is by receiving Jesus.

Ephesians 2:14 NIV¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Why the whole world was waiting. Advent. Without Jesus there would be no peace, no Shalom, eirene Christmas? Receive Him ... welcome Him. Gift. Ill. FORGIVENESS SIN, ADOPTION, living in Gods house.

Where does peace come from? Peace starts with God and comes through Jesus Christ. NOT only provides peace with God. Also provides peace within.

Please turn in your Bibles to John 14:25-27. **Page 764**

Ill. What to do when attacked by a shark. SCUBA INSTRUCTOR.

What to do when besieged by anxiety? Jesus, our spiritual guide says this ...

Read John 14:25-27

The Holy Spirit is our Peace-Keeper. The Spirit dwelling in our hearts produces the fruit of Peace.

- Peace I leave with you ... who did Jesus leave with us? Holy Spirit.

Peace-maker ascends, the Peace-keeper indwells. **Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you**

Reminder of who we belong to, who lives inside us. HS is all we need. Peace is not only an experience, Peace is a person. Holy Spirit giving new life, invigorating and animating to love God and others.

- Peace I give to you ... Never withholding (may be illusive) but Peace is a gift God wants us to have. Given freely. Given through the peace-maker; sustained by the peace-keeper, indwelling HS

As with all fruit, PEACE cannot be manufactured. It is produced, as we walk, step, filled with Spirit

What does the world give us? Nothing but trouble, anxiety, worry, lies. Ill. desperate scrambling (lies we believe) Not good enough, don't have enough, something's missing, God is holding out on me, God is punishing me. The traumas are so hard to shake, some remain victims all their lives.

Ill. Nun who struggled all her life. Obedient, lacking joy, never at peace. Story was one of abuse.

Spiritual Breathing.

- Jesus gives us peace with God, Spirit gives us peace within.

Ill. I asked my team what they do when they get anxious ... retreat, shelter, sense of peace.

Ill. PERSONAL ... Live under his rule. Obedience. Most at peace when I am obedient to God's Word and responsive to the Spirit's promptings in my life. Most at peace, when I see those I love walking with God. Most at peace when I believe the truth rather than the lies. Most at peace when I receive the life God gives rather than long for something I want that I don't have. When I hear Jesus say to me ...

"Peace be with you!" John 20:19 & 21 NIV ... and breathed on them the Holy Spirit.

Peace is ours when we place ourselves under God's rule. Fill our lives with God's Spirit.

Peace fills our hearts when, like Jesus, we respond to promptings to love God by loving one another.

Conclusion:

What is PEACE? Much more than absence of conflict, WHOLENESS, SECURITY, WELL-BEING.

Starts with Jesus, the Peace-Maker. The Prince of Peace.

Receive Jesus, the Peace-Maker. Take the gift and open it. I want a relationship with Jesus. Rule!

Where does PEACE WITH SELF come from? ... INNER PEACE. Found in the HS, the producer of peace.

Seek the Spirit, the Peace-Keeper. Filled with Spirit, embracing wholeness, fulfillment, advent, what we've all be waiting and longing for. **Practice Spiritual breathing** ... Abba, I belong to you.