

# Shalom

“Shalom!” I called out to the young students who were ascending Mount Carmel.

“Americans!” they called out to us as we were descending the mount. They raised their hands for high fives, which they delivered to us with smiles all around.

We were a group of Christians visiting Israel and seeing the magnificent sights of the country where our Lord Jesus had lived and walked.

“Shalom” means peace. It is used as a greeting or as a word of farewell.

## Peace

As believers in Jesus Christ, we can have **peace with God**, and we can also have the **peace of God**.

## Peace with God

“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ”

—Romans 5:1

When someone hears the gospel and believes it, they can have peace with God.

The Bible tells us that God is both loving and just (1 John 4:8, Deut. 32:4). Because He is loving, He desires a right relationship with everyone, but because He is just, He cannot ignore sin. Man, by his nature and deeds, is a sinner— separated from God and spiritually dead (Isa. 59:2, Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:1). Unless this condition of spiritual death is remedied in this life, it will lead to eternal death and eternal separation from God (Heb. 9:27, 2 Thess. 1:8-9).

The good news is that God sent His Son Jesus to save us from death and separation and provide the way for us to have eternal life. Jesus is God the Son and the only way to God the Father (John 1:1, 14, 17, 14:6). Jesus is our Creator and Lord, and He will one day return to establish an eternal kingdom (Col. 1:13- 16, Acts 10:36, Rev. 11:15). Jesus died for our sins and offers us the way back to God (1 Peter 3:18). Salvation is a free gift offered to anyone who truly repents (Acts 17:30, 31) and believes (Rom. 6:23, John 3:16) in the Lord Jesus Christ. Saving faith is trusting in Jesus alone for eternal life (Acts 4:12, John 8:24).

How can you become a Christian? Many have expressed their faith in Jesus Christ through a prayer, such as the following:

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I cannot be right with God through my own efforts. But I believe that You died for me and paid the penalty for my sin. I now ask You to come into my life as my Lord and Savior. I now place my trust in You alone, Lord Jesus, for my salvation. Help me to follow and obey You as Lord of my life.”

Jesus promises an abundant, eternal life for all who put their trust in Him (John 10:10, John 5:24).

The Bible says, “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Cor. 5:17). We can’t live the Christian life in our own strength, but God has provided all the resources we need—such as His Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), His promises (2 Peter 1:4), and His grace (2 Cor. 9:8)—to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

## Peace of God

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

What is peace? Peace is a **settled assurance that things will turn out well.**

"The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee." (Isa. 26:3)

"Because He, who not only loves me but is Love, is so great, I live beyond harm in His hands; and there is nothing that can happen to me that will not turn out to my good. Nothing. That is what Romans 8:28 really means." --Dallas Willard

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (John 14:27)

What can help us to experience this peace?

### God's Word

"Those who love Thy law have **great peace**, and nothing causes them to stumble."

--Psalm 119:165

### Prayer

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

--Philippians 4:6, 7

### Right Thinking

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and **peace**"

--Romans 8:5, 6

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of **peace** shall be with you."

--Philippians 4:8, 9

### God

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and **peace** in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

--Romans 15:13