

# PEACE

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We have addressed several aspects of Abba's personality. We have pondered:

- a) Goodness. That inexhaustible reservoir within God out of which flows deeds of Kindness to both the just and unjust
- b) Kindness. Overt actions by Abba to those who populate His created earth. This kindness is exhibited to us through other people, our spirits, our physical senses, and the wonders and beauty of this earth on which we live.
- c) Patience. That powerful magnetism of God which draws us ever more powerfully as we get closer to Him.
- d) Mercy. The will and ability of Abba to take our own selfishness and convert the just outcomes into building blocks which teach us about Himself and reveal Abba to us.
- e) Longsuffering. The desire and compassion of Abba to stand alongside us, dwelling within us, helping us to endure, survive, and overcome times of tribulation in our lives.

Now it is time to consider the next aspect of Abba's personality. Peace! Within me there is a strong urge, almost a compulsion, to write about the peace and joy which we have because of Him. I will resist, at least for now, because my goal is to write about the personality of God, not my own.

Peace, it seems to me is an absence of conflict and turmoil. Joy is the presence of something I hope to describe presently. I can almost hear cries that I **MUST** be wrong. In this world there are wars and rumors of wars. There is violence and conflict on every hand. There is intolerance, hatred, and vice of every kind. Our beloved nation is disintegrating into overt godlessness. Surely we are in the center of the storm where people cry, "Peace, Peace", and there is **NO** peace.

**STOP!!**

We must remind ourselves that we are talking about the personality of God, not ourselves, not me, not you, not the 'world'.

Here I must take a bold leap of faith. I invite you to join me, for a little while at least in this leap of faith. As we view the world, we see only a brief snapshot of a very incomplete story. We see other people like actors on a stage, uncertainly playing their roles and speaking their parts. We can not look backstage, we do not know anything about what has gone in their lives before. We know nothing about God's plan for them nor what is yet to come. We think we know what 'ought to' happen and we are tense because it may not work out the way we wish. Our peace is lost because of many pre-conceived notions and fears about what 'might' happen. Indeed, the vast majority of our fears never materialize (Praise God!).

None of the above apply to God, our Abba. He knows the end from the beginning. He had a plan. He created the world and all in it and He had a plan higher than that plan. Sin entered the heart of man but Abba had a plan behind that plan as well. Jesus came, resolved the sin problem and made a way for some of those people to actually be transformed into Sons of God. I have no idea how high this mountain of God's plan upon plan upon plan rises but my leap of faith is that it rises just as high as it needs to for His final goals to be fulfilled. I believe He is at perfect peace with His creation, His family, His Church, and His bride as He watches all He has in mind being fulfilled.

I believe the same about you, about me. God has a plan for you/me. He gave us the right genes, the right parents, the right siblings, the right community, and the right background. With patience, mercy, goodness, kindness, and longsuffering, He wooed you, sought you, chased you down until one day you cried out, "I found the Lord". Then, with His Holy Spirit in you, He has continued to work in you so you would fulfill the destiny He has for you. During this process you/I have often felt like failures, have stood troubled and uncertain – but not so our Lord. He has never lost His peace because He has known your final outcome from the beginning. How does this work? How does He do this? I do not understand it. I do not know. He claims that He does and my leap of faith is, if He claims it, He does it, no matter how it might look to me right now.

You may say, "So, what? It is all very nice for God to have peace but what about me? God is rich, powerful, and lives forever, probably with perfect health. What about me?" I am so glad you asked because this is an absolutely fundamental point. One of the potential outcomes, one of the

greatly desired outcomes is that we become ‘ONE’ with HIM. As we ‘see’ Him, we become like Him. Scripture speaks a lot about peace.

**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 heart be troubled and do not be afraid”.**

**Rom. 5:1, “since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ.”**

**I Pet. 3:10, “Whoever would love life and see good days -----must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.”**

In Philippians we are told that we should bring every detail of our lives to Abba and then, **and then**, the peace of God will rule our hearts and minds.

So, if you think God, Himself, is in turmoil and in distress. If you think He is sorry He ever got started with this ill-fated experiment called Creation, the promise of His peace may not be very comforting. Way deep down many Christians fear that God has lost control and is deeply disturbed. If, however, we believe that our Abba has a well developed plan for every contingency, then His peace becomes something to pursue, to be sought, to be grasped.

God, Abba has peace. In Him we rest. His peace becomes my peace. His peace becomes your peace. His plans are sufficient for my needs and your needs. Peace is something for us to pursue as Peter told us. How? How does one go about pursuing peace? My advice is simple, though I hope not simplistic. We have choices, real choices, to make concerning what we view on TV, hear on radio, and read. We live in a society that seems to love argumentation, refutation, and ridicule. Insulting labels are applied to individuals and groups almost everywhere you look. Stay away from those things unless God leads you to some conflict for a specific purpose. Avoid getting caught up in ‘culture wars’. Cultural wars rarely are very significant to the growth of the Kingdom of God. Politics, religious arguments, doctrinal issues, abortion, gay rights, etc {The list is virtually endless} have some importance but should not be a steady diet and should only be shared to inform not debated to convert. As a career teacher I assure you that it is sufficiently difficult to teach a willing mind, impossible to teach someone whose sole thought is to teach you the opposite. This brings frustration, not peace. How do we pursue peace? Pursue the Prince of Peace. Work, **and it is work**, to grow in one-to-one intimacy with Him. Talk to Him. Read about Him. Above all, listen for His still small voice.

This last step is the most difficult – and important. Pursue it. Work at it. Abba wants this family intimacy as much as you do, perhaps more. The most cherished and precious memories I have of growing up were the times, literally hours, spent in the kitchen, after a meal talking. Mom would say, “Leave the dishes till later”. We would just share ourselves. No agenda, no stated purpose, and as far as I knew, no goals. Just visiting.

**You can do this with Jesus.**

**Just visit.**

Written under the auspices of New Life Inc., a non-profit Christian organization. If you are interested in other writings contact: R.L. Pendleton, 322 Quincy St, Rapid City, SD 57701-2813 or contact us at our Web Page: [www.rapidnet.com/~newlife](http://www.rapidnet.com/~newlife). There are no charges for writings and there will be no request for donations.