

PEACE IN THE MIDST OF STORM

Isaiah 26:3-4

- How do we navigate life through the storms of life?
- How do we experience perfect peace in seasons of challenging times?
- Is prayer the answer to experience contentment?

-The Hebrew word for “peace” is “shalom” – a state of wholeness, wellbeing in every aspect of life regardless of the circumstances. The word “shalom” is used twice signifying perfect peace.

1. To experience perfect peace, one must have a personal relationship with God through the person of Christ.

-Peace is a bi-product of our relationship with God, and only those who have peace with God can experience the peace of God. (Romans 5:1; Col. 1:20)

2. To experience perfect peace requires undivided focus on God rather than the storms of life.

-“He will keep in perfect peace whose mind is steadfast on Him...” (focused, fixated, centered)

-“Anxiety” is dividing thoughts; thoughts that divide us from focusing on the Lord.

Q: What does it mean to have our mind fixated on Him?

-We must create a Biblical worldview or mindset or belief system regarding import issues of Christian life.

A. ABOUT GOD

-“What comes to your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.” (A.W. Tozer)

-Every time when God’s people face turbulent times and ask “why” God always reminded them of His character and promises – Faith is: trusting the character of God and believing in His promises.

B. ABOUT "GOOD" & "BAD"

-Romans 8:28-30: "Good" is that which enables us to conform to the image of Christ.

C. ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF PAIN

-2 Cor. 4:16-18; Job 13:15; 42:5

D. PRAYER

-"We need a God who is intellectually and emotionally satisfying" (Dr. Mark Young)

-Ultimate purpose of prayer is not to persuade God, rather in prayer God changes us.

-The Lord's Prayer (Mathew 6:9-13)

-Philippians 4:6-7: Difference between "prayer" and "petition"; the ultimate result of prayer is experiencing peace that is beyond human comprehension.

3. To experience perfect peace we must trust God with every component of our lives.

-"He will keep in perfect peace whose mind is steadfast on Him because he trusts in you."

-Trusting God: we stop trying and believe in Him for the outcome; we put our hope on Him rather than a particular answer to our prayer.

-Prayer as it is exercised by many Christians today hinder the journey to contentment because we are anxious about the answer to prayer, instead of rest in His character and promises.

-We are to "wait", "cast" and "be still"

Q: Are you at peace with God?

Q: Are you willing to let go and let God navigate your life?

Q: Are you willing to surrender your desires to His, and trust in Him?