

Prayer **Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."**

First Grade Proverbs: Don't bite the hand that ...looks dirty! If you lie down with dogs you'll... stink in the morning! A penny saved is ...not much. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ...you have to blow your nose. Better to be safe than...punch a fifth grader! Even first graders know peace is valuable. And they are right. Our world needs peace.

In what way do each of us need peace? In our heart?

- 1) Which includes our mind, our thinking, our desire for learning and seeking of knowledge from God's word or the world's way which changes minute by minute and situation by situation.
- 2) In our will; our ambitions, goals, desire for worldly success, or God's definition of success.
- 3) In our emotions which determine to a large degree our actions and speech responses.
- 4) In our conscience the location of our moral compass. Understanding of right from wrong according to God's truth or the ever-changing truth of the culture and circumstances around us.

Do we need peace in a personal relationship; spouse, children, extended family, acquaintants?
PEACE=SHALOM in Hebrew. It means have harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare, and tranquility. Peace with God, self and others. In the Greek it means "to join together"

How do we become peace makers?

First, have **THE PEACE OF GOD. WE MUST MAKE PEACE WITH GOD.**

How do we find peace for our own heart, soul, and mind? **Ps 29:11**"May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! **John 14:27,16:33.** Peace is one of the "fruit of the Spirit" **Galatians 5:22** It is the result of the Spirit's work, NOT HUMAN ABILITY.
We cannot create peace ourselves. We can only receive it from God. How do we do that?

1)**Accept the** _____ **of God.** Actress Sophia Loren explains it as she tells the USA Today how it's done. *Then there is God's way.* As the prophet said of Jesus in **Isaiah 53:5.** And, Paul adds in **Ephesians 2:14**, and when we receive Jesus' forgiving love by faith, we receive God's peace: **Rm 5:1** We can only be at peace with God by accepting his love, **making Jesus our Savior.**

2)**Obey the** _____ **of God.** Musician Paul Simon told an interviewer his view on what God requires of us. *Then there is God's way.* The Psalmist prayed in **Psalms 119:165.** God said through his prophet **Isaiah 48:18.** God's word gives us the guideposts we need to live successfully. They point us to our destination and keep us out of ditches and dead ends. They are for our good, and they give us God's peace. So, meet God each day in the Scriptures. Measure your decision by his truth. **Obey his word and you will have peace.**

3) Receive the _____ of God. Pastor Dwight Moody gave a Bible to a friend but first wrote these words inside: "The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible." When we obey the words of God, we judge ourselves in the light of his word. We see ourselves as God does. We seek and receive his forgiveness for our sins, and we have his peace. What did God tell the prophet, **Isaiah 48:22**. God added in **Isaiah 57:20** and warned us in **Isaiah 59:8**. His word is clear. "Be sure your sin will find you out" **Numbers 32:23** Confess your sins to God if you want to have peace with him. *He is waiting to forgive you, cleanse you, and set you free. He loves you that much.* **But you must ask.**

4) Trust the _____ of God. Advice from the Book of Job: "Agree with God, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you." **Job 22:21**. Paul agreed: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you are called in one body. And be thankful." **Colossians 3:15**. Are you at peace with God today? Have you accepted his love? Are you obeying his word? Have you received his forgiveness? Are you trusting in his will? God promises you his peace and tells you how to receive it. **However, the decision is yours.**

Make peace with others. How do we give this peace we receive from God? How do we become peacemakers with others? With whom do you most need peace now? *Write their initials here.* _____. Think of that person and take these biblical steps toward the peace you need.

1) Initiate _____. The fifth beatitude tells us we are to choose not to punish whatever wrong has been done to us. God's word tells us, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord'" **Romans 12: 18-19**. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." **Romans 12:21. Initiate pardon and you will be a peacemaker.**

2) Seek _____. Jesus teaches us "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." **Matthew 5:23-24**. If someone has something against you, whether you believe their anger is justified or not, go to them. **Seek reconciliation and you will be a peacemaker.**

3) Choose _____. Whether the person accepts your pardon or receives your attempts at reconciliation, choose peace. Give them to God and choose his peace. Please read: **Isaiah 52:7, 2 Corinthians 13:11 and Hebrews 12:14-15. Write these Scriptures out at home.**

Those who bring about peace between men and between man and God have no alliance with evil. A world of conflict and chaos will always take note of people who are at peace. When we have God's peace in our heart, we can give it to others. And when we give peace to others, we find it in our own heart. And then we "will be called sons of God." **Jesus says we will not become sons of God—that would be works righteousness.** But people will know that we are God's children as we give his peace to them; "by this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" **John 13:35. Who will see the peace of Christ in you?** Story of John Wesley, one of the most significant Christian leaders in history. He went to America as a missionary but was not himself converted!

Scriptures to be read for this lesson:

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

You must make peace with God.

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." Jesus speaking.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus speaking.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Accept the love of God

Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Ephesians 2:14 "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."

Romans 5:1 Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Obey the Word of God

Psalms 119:165 "Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD."

Isaiah 48:18 "If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea."

Receive the forgiveness of God

Isaiah 48:22 "There is no peace" says the Lord, "for the wicked".

Isaiah 57:20 "But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud."

Isaiah 59:8 "The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace."

Numbers 32:23 "But if you fail to do this you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure your sin will find you out."

Trust the will of God Job 22:21, Colossians 3:15

Make peace with others: 1) Initiate pardon Romans 12:18-19, Romans 12:21

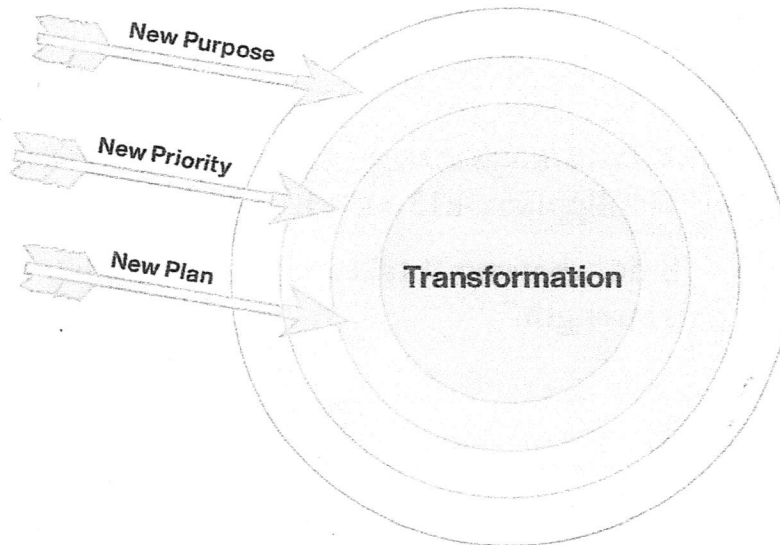
2) Seek reconciliation: Matthews 5:23-24

3) Choose peace: **Isaiah 52:7** "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion "Your God reigns.!" **2 Corinthians 13:11** "Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

Hebrews 12:14-15 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

John 13:35 "by this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

REACHING THE TARGET: TRANSFORMATION!



THE FREEDOM FORMULA

A New Purpose
+ A New Priority
+ A New Plan

A Transformed Life

Target 1—A New Purpose: God's purpose for me is to be conformed to the character of Christ.

"Those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29).

- "I'll do whatever it takes to be conformed to the character of Christ."

Target 2—A New Priority: God's priority for me is to change my thinking.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

- “I’ll do whatever it takes to line up my thinking with God’s thinking.

Target 3—A New Plan: God’s plan for me is to rely on Christ’s strength, not my strength, to be all He created me to be.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

- “I’ll do whatever it takes to fulfill His plan in His strength.”

My Personalized Plan

When I doubt God’s perfect plan and provision for me, I leave myself open to wrong assumptions and conclusions. To overcome envy and jealousy, I must root out the seeds of doubt and discontentment that threaten the peace God promises. To do that, I will fight . . .

► **ARROGANCE**

“Because God is the Source of what I have, I don’t deserve more than I have, nor even deserve what I do have. I humbly acknowledge that the abilities I have are actually a gift from God.”

“What do you have that God hasn’t given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?”
(1 Corinthians 4:7 NLT)

► COMPARISON

“Because God made me as I am, I will stop comparing my strengths and weaknesses to others. I will remember that God reveals His strength through my weakness.”

“He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

► COMPETITION

“Because God created everyone in His image, I don’t have to compete with others to prove myself. I will choose to care about others rather than compete with others.”

“In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Philippians 2:3–4).

► COVETOUSNESS

“Because God commands me not to covet, I refuse to obsess over what others have. Instead, I’ll be thankful for what I have in this life.”

“Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful” (Hebrews 12:28).

► DENIAL

“Because God desires that I walk in truth, I will confess my sin when I allow envy or jealousy to reside in my heart. I will change my thoughts

and ask God to purify my heart from all that is not right in His sight.”

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8–9).

► DISCONTENT

“Because God doesn’t want to withhold what is good for me, I will be content with everything God has provided me.”

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless” (Psalm 84:11).

► DISSATISFACTION

“Because God knows what is best for me, I will trust in Him and be satisfied that He will meet my needs. I will resist the urge to ‘want it all.’”

“The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail” (Isaiah 58:11).

► FEAR

“Because I’m promised God’s strong help for my life, I will not fear the changes He allows. I will trust Him to help me and calm my fear.”

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

► INSECURITY

“Because I have God’s unfailing love and guidance, I will not rely on a false sense of security that comes from people or things. I will not put my trust in what I have, but will entrust my life to the Lord.”

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life” (Psalm 143:8).

► PRIDE

“Because God is God and I am not, I will examine my motives to determine what problem I am trying to resolve through envy and jealousy. I will acknowledge that I cannot control everything in my life, but I can trust and bow down to the only One who can. He saves me—even from myself.”

“You shall have no other gods before me . . . for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God” (Exodus 20:3, 5).

Mark 14:8 "She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial."

It was normal Jewish custom to anoint the body with aromatic oils in preparation for burial. Jesus anticipated a criminal's death, only in those circumstances was there no anointing of the body.

Mark 14:9 "I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

What will God show us today?

1) Mary modeled the life of a disciple:

A) Open her heart, she was teachable, she was committed to following Jesus completely, learning more and more about Him

B) A disciple is disciplined to learn. To walk with Jesus, we must know our faith, not our Religion or our denomination, but to KNOW our faith, OWN our faith and GROW our faith

Word Study Here

Conclusion

C) Jesus called to the fishermen in **Luke 5 "Follow Me"** Did He mean to be an *admirer*? A *fan*?

D) Welcome everyone into His kingdom; blind and crippled, broken people from the trials and mistakes of their lives, curious people, outsiders, lepers, the unclean.

E) *Acknowledge He knows best how we should live our life.* **John 14:10** "Don't you believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me? The words that I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me that is doing this work."

2) *Every crisis in our lives is an opportunity* to broaden, deepen, and heighten our revelation, understanding, trust, the will of Christ for our lives.

— We all wrestle with what we don't know. **Matt. 11:6** "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." Jesus does not want us to have discouragement and doubt when we don't fully understand.

3) *If you are silent, God sees everything and will defend unseen acts of love.* **Pr 17:28** "Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue."