

“Perfect Peace”

Isaiah 26:3

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The Enemy of Peace

John 8:44 “He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

Revelation 12:9 “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.”

- *The Devil, Satan, Father of Lies*
 - *His weapons* –
 - *Lies/Deception* – once believed lead to:
 - *Worry* – To tease; to trouble; to harass with importunity, or with care and anxiety.
 - *Anxiety* – a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome.
 - *Fear* – A painful emotion or passion excited by an expectation of evil, or the apprehension of impending danger.
 - *Doubt* – to think something may not be true, to be uncertain.
 - *His desire* –
 - That you would act upon one of those things.
 - He wants you to make decisions based on...
 - *Feeling*
 - Pleasure (sexual, hunger, etc.)
 - Emotions (anger, sadness, happiness, etc.)
 - *Fear*
 - Anxiety, worry, etc. (thoughts)
 - *Satan’s goal is to get you to think either...*
 - You are better or are doing better than you really are.
 - You read your Bible more, serve more, share your faith more and attend church more than everyone else so you believe his lies by believing you are better than others. – Pride

- You would be better off than others, but not better than!
- You are worse or are doing worse than you really are.
 - You'll never measure up, you sin more than others, you read less than others, etc.
 - You may in fact read less, go to church less, serve less.
 - You aren't worse than others as a believer, but you WILL be worse off!

What controls your thoughts?

"Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny."
 – Unknown

The Source of Perfect Peace

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on You*, because he trusts in You."

- *Keep* – to watch over, guard

*"Safety consists not in the absence of danger
 but in the presence of God."*

Source Unknown.

- *Perfect Peace* – Completeness, soundness, wellness, safety, secure.
 - *"The Hebrew word for "peace" (shalom) means much more than a cessation of war. It includes blessings such as wholeness, health, quietness of soul, preservation, and completeness."* Weirsbe
- The old saying, "It isn't what you know, it's who you know" isn't adequate for this verse.
 - It's WHO you know and WHAT you know HIM that will keep you in "Perfect Peace"

New Testament Parallel of Isaiah 26:3

Philippians 4:6-7 ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- **Satan's tool**
 - *Anxiety – Anxious* – (Merimnao) means to be divided, to go to pieces, to be pulled in different directions.
- **God's provision**

- *Prayer* – (*Proseuchē*) describes a believer's approach to God.
- *Petition* – (*Deēsei*) emphasizes requesting an answer to a specific need.
- *Thanksgiving* – (*Eucharistias*) is an attitude of heart which should always accompany one's prayers.
 - *Thankfulness, no matter the outcome!*
- *Requests* – (*Aitēmata*) speaks of definite and specific things asked for.
 - Notice the focus of both Isaiah 26:3 as well as Philippians 4:6.
 - It's God!
 - It's focusing on Him, not the problems!
 - It's praying when you feel like crying!
 - It's trusting when you feel like running!
- **John 14:27** "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, neither let it be afraid."

Perfect Peace

1 Peter 1:13-16 ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"

How you think will determine how you live!

- You can't separate your thinking from your living, you will live according to how you think!
 - *Gird* – "Gird up the loins of your mind" simply means, "Pull your thoughts together! Have a disciplined mind!"
 - *Be Sober* – "*It means to be free from every form of mental and spiritual "drunkenness" or excess. Rather than being controlled by outside circumstances, believers should be directed from within.*" JFB Commentary
 - *Rest your Hope* – to look forward with confidence
 - *Fully* – teleios "having reached its end" "finished, complete perfect."
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2** "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

“Outlook determines outcome; attitude determines action.” Weirsbe

Having perfect peace isn't a result of wishful thinking, or trying to drum up some inner thing that doesn't exist!

It's keeping your eyes on Jesus in the midst of the storms of life!

- **Matthew 14:22-31** ²² Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.**” ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹ So He said, “**Come.**” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**”

- Why do we doubt? Is God a liar?
 - The disciples were in the middle of the sea because He told them to cross over.
 - Was their destruction His purpose?
- Why do we constantly question God's intentions in our trials?
 - **James 1:2-8** ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with *no doubting*, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

- **Philippians 4:8-9** ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure,

whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

Romans 8:6 “For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.”

The *REST* of the verse

Isaiah 26:3-4 “³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed on *You*, because he trusts in *You*. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, *is* everlasting strength.”

Have you been anxious?

- The Fathers instructions are to apply Philippians 4:6-9/1 Peter 1:13 as many times in the day and for as many days as necessary.

Are you deceived?

- The Fathers instructions are to apply Romans 12:2 daily!