

## AND THE PEACE OF GOD...

Peace is the world's cry from the time sin entered it. Peace is the presence of God, bringing joy, happiness and tranquility to the soul. There are many enemies of peace, which are ever trying to destroy the mind's ability to function. There is a battle for the mind of men in order to separate them from God's principles, His peace and joy. To discredit His attributes and Who He is, to doubt His love and His word. We live in a world of confusion for not embracing His Word as true and powerful as we read in Hebrews 4:12: "for the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power; it is sharper than any two edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life and spirit, and of joints and marrow, exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart." YAHSHUA warned us saying, "Do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own trouble" (Matt. 6:34). The path of life is many times uncertain. In many ways it will lead us where we don't want to be. Decisions we make significant or not, will have consequences good or bad. The least will take us out of our comfort zone sometimes for a long time. When we embrace anxiety and everything else in its family, they will control our emotions and disease our body. The will of God is that we be free from anxiety. We are to make our requests known to Him by prayer, supplications and thanksgiving. Then He will bless us with His peace, the peace that transcends all understanding and He will guard our hearts and minds in Christ YASHUA (Phil. 4:6-7). That's a promise worthy of our consideration as part of life. But as it is, we keep asking for things God has already promised or given us. The missing link here is lack of faith in many cases, denying us the fulfillment of His promises.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God; and God's peace which transcends all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ YAHSHUA." Because sin has taken peace away from us and replaced it with anxiety, worries and fears, these are the first things that come to the mind in times of trouble. It is certain that physical diseases will follow, if we do not correct our feelings. As it is said, worries lodges in the stomach and heart; fear in the kidneys, anger in the liver. We stay sick because we do not consider the word of God to have answers for our problems. It should be embarrassing to every Christian to live a life doubting the Word of God. The Lord said to the Prophet Jeremiah, "I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it" (Jer. 1:12b); "For as the rain and snow come done from the heavens and return not there again, but water the earth and make it bring forth and sprout, that is may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but It shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent" (Isa.55:10-11). What our Lord God promised us; He will fulfill in His time. "God is faithful by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son YAHSHUA Messiah our Lord" (I Cor. 1:9). "The Word of the Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens" (Ps.119:89). It was by the Word of God that the world was created. The Bible says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God Himself. All things were made and came into

existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being" (John 1:1-4).

So, the Word of God is more than a book; it is alive and it is powerful to perform that which He promised. YAHSHUA brought life and beauty to this world; He brought redemption, forgiveness, healing and a relationship with Him- the Word of God. The Word of God comforts, teaches, guides and makes us a better person through the person of the Holy Spirit. We have been renewed and changed by the Word. YAHSHUA said, "You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the Word which I have given you; dwell in Me and I will dwell in you...If you live in Me and My Words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you" (John 15:3-4,7). So, the Word of God is of no power to those who will not read, meditate and apply it to their heart. All we need is promised in the Word of God. All we need for our physical, mental and spiritual needs can be met through the Word of God. Aligning ourselves with the Word of God, with His promises and with His commandments is key to receiving answers to prayers, to be blessed with peace, joy, temperance, love, longsuffering, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, meekness- these are the characteristics of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As we walk with Him daily, we will learn to be like Him, to talk as He talks, and learn to rejoice in Him always; to have a gentle spirit; and learn not to be anxious, as we present to him our needs with thanksgiving. Our hearts and minds He will protect with His peace- the tranquil state of the soul. As the offense part of the armor of God, we will train our mind and mouth to speak and to dwell on that which comes from the Lord's word: Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and whatever is of good report (Phil. 4).

Today, the word of God lays somewhere collecting dust, which comes from our own bodies. Miserable as we feel, we still continue rejecting God's promises for every situation life presents. Some people are blessed with faith that moves mountains; they are witnesses of miracles, witnesses of God's promises on their lives, therefore, they experience His peace, no matter the circumstances. There is nothing more comforting than that to have our minds protected by God. As His children, we must know that He knows the best answer for us. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You (God) will guard and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he commits himself to you, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You." This is a perfect model to live our Christian life pleasing God and being blessed by Him in perfect harmony. "So, trust in the Lord forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock. (vs. 4) The way of the righteous is level and straight; You, O Lord, Who are upright, direct aright and make level the path of the just and righteous (vs. 7). Yes, in the path of Your judgment, O Lord, we wait for You; our heartfelt desire is for You name and for the remembrance of You. My soul years for You [O Lord] in the night, yes, my spirit within me seeks You earnestly" (vs. 8,9a). When my spirit seeks the Lord earnestly, peace takes over my life, confirming His presence. All done in faith, for it is the pillar of our Christian life; it is the essence of our love and obedience to God and His Word. We should never leave home without it. Only let us hold true to what we have already attained and walk and order our lives by that (Phil. 4:4-8).