

Where Can I Find Peace on Earth?

Paul H. VanValin, PhD
Church of the Messiah
December 13, 2020

Peace

- * a state of tranquility or quiet:
 - * freedom from civil disturbance
 - * a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom
- * freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions
- * harmony in personal relations
- * a state or period of mutual concord between governments

Biblical Peace – 420 Times

Hebrew: *šālôm*, translated most often by the Greek word, *eirēnē*, (i-ray'-nay) has a wide semantic range including the notions of totality or completeness, success, fulfillment, wholeness, harmony, security and well being

Obstacles in Psalm 4

- * Distress
- * Shame
- * Delusions (deception)
- * Idolatry (putting something else before God)
- * Sin
- * Noisy minds
- * Distrust (in the Lord)
- * Poverty
- * Negative emotions
- * Lack of Safety

Obstacles in Galatians 5

- * Self-indulgence (addictive cycle)
- * Pride
- * Hate – Relationship Discord
- * Flesh driven desire and passion
- * Conceit
- * Provocation
- * Envy

Acts of the Flesh

- * ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

Obstacles in Matthew 5

- * Pride
- * Grief
- * Pride
- * Hunger
- * Vengefulness
- * Impurity
- * Warmongering
- * Deception
- * Persecution
- * Having enemies

Finding Peace on Earth – Ps 4

- * Pray
- * Listen
- * Believe in God
- * Hope in the Lord
- * Righteous Living
- * Soul Searching
- * Offer Sacrifices (Time, \$, Communion)
- * Trust in the Lord
- * Rest in the Lord
- * Be mindful of the Lord

Finding Peace on Earth – Gal 5

- * Humbly Serve
 - * Love your neighbor as yourself
- * Walk by the Spirit – *As we draw closer to the Lord, his will and ours become the same. We will want what God wants.* David Gyertson's sermon in the 80's
- * Cooperate with others
- * Lift others up

Making Peace on Earth – Mt 5

- * Ponder the Paradoxical Blessings of God
- * Rejoice – Praise God with Gratitude
- * BE GLAD – Intentional thoughts
 - * Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee:
because he trusteth in thee.

Paul and Becky Resources

- * Prayer to Release and Receive in resources below
- * Gratitude Exercise in resources below
- * Facebook Group: *Coping with Stress with Paul and Becky VanValin*
- * YouTube Channel *VanValin Assessment and Consulting*
- * www.edencounseling.com