
How Can I Have Peace with God?

We usually think of peace as an emotional experience, like how we feel when we have a full stomach, plenty of sleep, and we know we are physically safe. Yet, the Bible teaches about a kind of peace that God grants as a gift to human beings. God only gives this peace to those who are willing to accept it as a gift they can't earn. It's not a matter of what people do for God. Instead, it is what God does for people. It must simply be received, knowing that you are completely unworthy of it.

The only way any human being can be at peace with God is to accept this gift God gives. Every human being is born as a sinner.¹ This is because Adam, the first man created by God, sinned. So sin and the punishment for sin, death, has spread to all human beings.²

What this means is that every human being is at war with God.^{3,4} Not only is every human being at war with God but every human being is also at war within his or her own heart and soul. God has given every human being a sense of what is right and what is wrong.⁵ Yet, all humans find that they cannot live up to the moral standards of their own conscience.⁶ We want to do what is right, but we do what is wrong.⁷ This spiritual battle wages inside every one of us.⁸

The Good News is that God unilaterally changed the situation. Because of His love for us, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins, while we were still His enemies.⁹

When Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, he established peace:

1. Jesus' death and resurrection established peace between God the Father and those who put their faith in Jesus.¹⁰ No one can take this peace away.¹¹ It doesn't matter if you feel like you're at peace with God or not. Jesus "is our peace"¹². Jesus has established that you are at peace with God. That's final!
2. This peace extends to relationships with other people who used to be enemies before coming to Christ.¹³
3. This peace also extends inside us, into our hearts and souls. We can know that God is taking care of everything we need. Even when things go wrong, He will make sure that things turn out for the best in the

¹ Psalm 51:5 – Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because all sinned – (Romans 5:12)

³ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled (Colossians 1:21)

⁴ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

⁵ For when ... [those] who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness ... (Romans 2:14&15a).

⁶ For I know in me (that is in my flesh) nothing good dwells: for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. (Romans 7:18).

⁷ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice (Romans 7:19).

⁸ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (Romans 7:23).

⁹ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

¹⁰ For he is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14a).

¹¹ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand (John 10:27&28).

¹² For he is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14a).

¹³ ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even the law of commandments contained in ordinances*; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so making peace*; (Eph 2:13-15 KJV)

end. And, it's not simply that the bad experiences turn out okay; the bad experiences produce good spiritual character which will become an eternal blessing.¹⁴

“Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures ... he was buried ... and he rose again, according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3b&4). When we put our faith in His death on the cross as the payment for our sins, accepted by God, then we are judged as having been made right before God (Romans 4:24-25). This connection to Christ's salvation is by faith and not by works (Romans 4:6; 11:6; Galatians 2:16). So even though we can't do anything to change our relationship with God by our own efforts, what Christ did does. Christ's death on the cross transfers His righteousness onto all who believe in Him as Savior (Romans 4:23). We can rest assured that Jesus has done everything needed to make us right with God. Nothing more can be done to make us right with God because Jesus has already done everything for us.

If you turn to Christ and ask Him to turn your life around, you can be at peace with God. Peace with God will become the foundation for peace with other people, and peace within your own heart.

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A Story of Peace

Two different men decided to build their houses on a flood plain.

One of them took no consideration of where he was building. He didn't even bother to construct a solid foundation before he started to build. In fact, he put the floors and walls directly on the sand that was part of the land where he built.

A second man took the location on the flood plain into full consideration. He found a part of his property that had solid bedrock near the surface. He built his house on the solid rock.

Storms came. The waters rose up. Flash floods swept through the flood plain where the two men had built their houses.

The house built on the sand, washed away, and was smashed to pieces. We don't know if the owner of the house got out in time or not. We never hear any mention of him again.

The owner of the house built on the solid rock made out much better. Nothing bad happened to him or his house. His house stood firm.

Jesus told this story about two men who built their houses in Israel during his lifetime. Jesus' If we do we will have peace with God.

point is: If we hear the teachings of Jesus, and ignore them, we will be building our house on a foundation of sand. On the other hand, if we listen to Jesus' teaching, and trust in Him, we will be like the man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus is our solid rock. We can build our lives on Him. If we do, we will have peace with God. This peace will grow and become peace with other people, if we abide in the teachings of Christ. This peace will also grow and become a deep inner sense of peace in our hearts.

Jesus calls each of us to hear His teaching, and follow Him. We can have peace that will endure every storm of life.

¹⁴ Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulations worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5:1-5).