

## **Jehovah Shalom The Lord our Peace**

### **Preamble** - Names of God, reveal God

A part of Authentic relationship with God is knowing his names. Jesus taught us to pray, 'Hallowed be your name.'

- Knowing God's names reveal who God is to us
- Names stir emotions, passion, can evoke love
- Names can build faith and give courage
- Names can bring new levels of intimacy
- God wants you to know his name and keep his name within your heart
  
- We have a firm conviction that growing in the knowledge of God changes us and enlarges us.
- Growing in the knowledge of God causes his character, personality and power to be revealed to us and through us.
  - Makes you strong - Strengthen you on the
  - Enlarges your capacity
  - Causes faith to rise and fear to flee
  - Hope will begin to grow in you because he is the God of all hope
- There is no greater pursuit then to grow in the knowledge of God and go deeper in intimacy.

'but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.' **Daniel 11.32b**

- God wants to be known and his names reveal who he is and what he is like
- The names of God reveal the will of God.

### **Jehovah Shalom - The Lord our Peace**

Judges 6 gives the account of the Israelites are being over run the Midianites, Amalakites and other eastern people.

- They were living in fear, chaos and anarchy ruled
- v6 - Midian so impoverished Israel that they cried out to the Lord
- v7-10 - The Lord sent them a prophet in answer to their prayers and tells them that this is a result of their rebellious and disobedient ways. 'But you have not listened to me (V10)
- It's in response to their prayers that the Lord speaks to and raises up a Gideon - deliverer that would deal with the Anarchy, fear and Choas
- And it's in the meeting with Gideon that God reveals himself as Jehovah Shalom - The Lord Our Peace

So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. **Judges 6.24**

### **Biblical definition of peace**

- It comes from the Hebrew word Shalom
- Wholeness, completeness, health and security
- Prosperity
- Freedom from war and conflict – which come from reconciliation between men and peoples
- Peace is more of a verb than a noun

- It's the active removal of anarchy, fear and chaos which then results in tranquility and calm
- Like when Jesus said to the storm 'Peace be still'
- Or when he appeared to his disciples and they were afraid and he said 'Peace be with you.' Luke 24
- Both these times Jesus is commanding fear, Anarchy and chaos to leave and be gone.

### **The Consequences of lack of Peace**

- Life becomes a drudgery
- A chore
- An existence instead of a life to the full

#### **1. Anger**

- Outbursts of verbal and physical abuse to those around them - the problem is internal and not external
- The reason so many in our world are reacting in extreme ways to small issues is because they live with such tension constantly and close to the surface

#### **2. Depression**

- A state of unhappiness and depression
- No Joy. Passion or motivation
- Feeling dark and heavy

#### **3. Fear**

- Fear of the people
- Fear of the future
- Fear of ?

#### **4. Escapism**

- We find escapism in experiences of the flesh but realise they are short lived
  - The film finishes and you have to come back to reality, you take a deep breath and carry on with the monotony of your existence, biting at those around you
  - The evening with friends was full of conversation and some laughter but it's over and in the quietness of your room you know you have the same issues to face as you did that morning and the day before, the week before
  - The shopping spree is over, you have bought a few things, your feet hurt, your purse empty, credit card a little larger but you still have this ache, a missing peace on the inside
  - The holiday was great you managed to escape everything and everyone for a whole week or two. But now your back and it seems like you never went away...
  - Your hobbies and interests don't satisfy
  - Substance abuse
  - Other abuses and addictions

### **How to live with Peace**

#### **1. First make Peace with God**

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6**

- Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace
- Through the Cross has made Peace

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. **Colossians 1:19-20**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Romans 5:1**

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, **Ephesians 2:14-15**

## **2. Daily Surrender - Aligning our will to Gods Will**

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." **Joshua 3.5**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6.33**

- Sadly many believers do not live a surrendered life
- It's daily taking up our cross and following Jesus
- This is a matter of conforming our will to Gods will
  - We do this daily and in various areas
    - Relationships - Forgiving and loving
    - Finances - Obey Scripture
    - Purity
    - And many other areas
- Allow the Prince of Peace to be Prince of your live, He is your peace
- He will give you his peace not like the world gives

## **3. Cry out to God - Pray**

Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help. **Judges 6.6**

- Where do you turn when the pressure is on and it feels like there is chaos all around?
- The Israelites finally called out to the Lord - And he heard them immediately.

When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me." **Judges 6.7-10**

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' **Jeremiah 33.3**

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7.14**

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:5-7**

- Do not be anxious about anything
- But in everything
- By Prayer - Covers all kinds of prayers
- By Petition - Build an argument and put it before God - Speak his word to HIM
  - Stay there a while and remind God of his word and promise
- With Thanksgiving - Gratitude, faith filled
- Present your requests to God
- Peace of God will guard you - This comes by praying through
  - A literal spiritual guard protecting you and your mind against the enemy

#### **4. Look to Jehovah Shalom**

<sup>3</sup> You will keep *him* in perfect peace, Whose mind *is* stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. **Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)**

- He (**God**) keeps in perfect the person who fixes their thoughts on the Lord
- Keeping your mind is about love, affection and relationship
- It's learning to turn our hearts towards the Lord daily and throughout the day
- Trust Him - Trust is a relational word

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

#### **Psalm 16.8**

- Where are you looking
- What are the dominant thoughts in your mind

#### **Conclusion**

We serve Jehovah Shalom - God our Peace

- Make your peace with God today - Jesus Lord and Saviour
- Daily surrender - Your will surrendered to Gods will
- Cry out to him - Pray First
- Look to him - Turn your affections, give him primary place