

How to Have Peace on Earth

By David McKinley

Everywhere we turn, we are reminded *it's the most wonderful time of the year*. However, for some it can be the most aggravating, frustrating and expensive time of the year. Didn't the angels proclaim, "Peace on earth, good will toward men?"

PEACE:

▶ The World Talks About It

"If mankind does find the solution for world peace, it will be the most revolutionary reversal in history's record we have ever known."
—George Marshall

▶ People Around the World Seek It

"Wars are bred by poverty and oppression. Continued peace is possible only in a relatively free and prosperous world." —George Marshall

▶ You and I Long to Achieve It

I have a confession to make: *I want peace!*

I. KNOW WHAT PEACE IS

"Peace is always beautiful." —Walt Whitman
(This is a romanticized state of peace.)

"Peace: A monotonous interval between fights."
—Elbert Hubbard

The Bible speaks about peace in many passages of Scripture. Throughout the Old Testament, the word "Shalom" is used meaning *peace, wholeness and well being*.

Peace is described in the Bible, not as a place or condition, but ultimately as a relationship with God.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"Peace is the inner tranquility and harmony enjoyed by the believer who is living in conformity to the will of God." —J. Oswald Sanders

"Peace is the realization that God works through the disparities and contradictions of my experience and brings them into harmony."
—Eugene Petersen

II. EXPERIENCE WHAT PEACE DOES

PEACE HELPS YOU:

▶ Cope With Your Conflicts

So often, our lives are stirred and stained by conflicts in our relationships. And much of that conflict starts with us. It is something happening inside of us.

"But what about the feuds and struggles that exist among you—where to you suppose they come from? Can't you see that they arise from conflicting desires for pleasure within yourselves? You crave for something and don't get it; you are murderously jealous of what you can't possess yourselves; you struggle and fight with one another." James 4:1-2

▶ Cultivate Contentment in Your Life

Discontentment brings disruption and disturbance to your life. Contentment is not a matter of *things*, but of *thankfulness and trust*. Remember,

1. God loves you and you are valuable to Him.
2. God will meet your needs: "Give us this day our daily bread. . ."

▶ **Combat Your Concerns**

So many are tense, anxious and fearful. We all need peace.

“To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.”

—George Washington (First annual message to Congress, January 8, 1790).

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-8

▶ **Clear Your Conscience**

Many live with “flashbacks” of failures, sins and injuries. Guilt has stolen their peace as they live in the shadows of yesterday. Two days can take the joy out of today: yesterday and tomorrow. Make peace with your past!

III. UNDERSTAND HOW PEACE COMES

Peace is a gift! Just like a Christmas present, you can receive it. God has made it available for you through Jesus Christ.

“Since then it is by faith that we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1 (NT in Modern English)

God’s peace is spiritual, emotional, and eternal.

“Life is full of disturbances. Without are fightings, within are fears. There is no peace.

A dozen open doors beckon us to some kind of peace—escape, entertainment, alcohol, sex, drugs, hard work—and we run from one door to another hoping to find peace. What we need is Jesus Christ; for His name is Prince of Peace, and that takes care of the disturbances of life.” —Warren Wiersbe

It all goes back to a baby born in a manger 2000 years ago. “The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and you shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

“For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His should. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

The Christmas story is the greatest story ever told. Peace is not a trouble free life, but rather it is having a relationship with the Peace Maker.