

SOHL
WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS



"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

Lord of "Shilom"

December 20, 2021

ISAIAH 9:6 NKJV - (6) For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In a world filled with confusion, chaos, war and violence, it's difficult to see how Jesus could be the all-powerful God who acts in human history and be the embodiment of peace. But physical safety and political harmony don't necessarily reflect the kind of peace He's talking about (**John 14:27**).

The Hebrew word for "peace," *shalom*, is often used in reference to an appearance of calm and tranquility of individuals, groups, and nations. The Greek word **eirene** means "unity and accord"; Paul uses **eirene** to describe the objective of the New Testament church. But the deeper, more foundational meaning of peace is "the spiritual harmony brought about by an individual's restoration with God."

In our sinful state, we are enemies with God (**Romans 5:10**). "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (**Romans 5:8**). Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are restored to a relationship of peace with God (**Romans 5:1**). This is the deep, abiding peace between our hearts and our Creator that cannot be taken away (**John 10:27-28**) and the ultimate fulfillment of Christ's work as "Prince of Peace."

But Christ's sacrifice provides more for us than eternal peace; it also allows us to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Helper who promises to guide us (**John 16:7, 13**). Further, the Holy Spirit will manifest Himself in us by having us live in ways we couldn't possibly live on our own, including filling our lives with love, joy, and peace (**Galatians 5:22-23**). This love, joy, and peace are all results of the Holy Spirit working in the life of a believer. They are reflections of His presence in us. And, although their deepest, most vital result is to have us live in love, joy, and peace with God, they can't help but to spill over into our relationships with people.

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 14:27

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: How comfortable it is to have one, day and night, before the throne to control the charge of our enemy, and the despondencies of our souls.