

The Kingdom of God. These notes were attached to *Thy Kingdom Come - What on Earth is the Kingdom?* Undated, unsure if this was ever shared with SCF*

Proverbs 10 verse 16

The wages of the righteous is life, the income of the wicked, punishment.

Proverbs 10 verse 21

The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of understanding.

Proverbs 10 verse 24

What the wicked fears will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

Do you want to have your prayers answered? There are many more verses in the Proverbs that speak of the benefits of righteous living. Read them for yourself and let them be food for your daily living.

Peace.

This comes from being in harmony with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5 verse 1-2

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. Jesus spoke to the disciples about peace, He was not speaking of the world's kind of peace that sometimes comes if you are successful and rich in material things, or even in good physical health, but the kind of peace that is deep rooted in Jesus. He is to be our peace, He brought us into a place of peace with God.

John 14 verse 27

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

When we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour we will receive peace of the everlasting kind. Jesus Himself is our peace.

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Ephesians 2 verse 14-16

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 By abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

When we look back to the Old Testament we find that peace was a foundation for great works of God.

Judges 6 verse 11-14

Then the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. 12 The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior." 13 Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." 14 The LORD looked at him and said, "Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?"

Gideon had been out of peace as he worked in the fields. He had great doubts about his God and about himself; which usually is the case. If Christians doubt God they are not able to be very bold or courageous for Him and Gideon poured out his unbelieving heart to the angel of the Lord. *If, why and where* are words of doubt and doubt is from unbelief, not faith. Eventually Gideon is convinced that God *might* be for him and the same words of Jesus are spoken to him in Judges.

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Judges 6 verse 23

The LORD said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

This is why Jesus is called the *Prince of Peace* and conversely, the devil is called the *prince of this world*. To live in the kingdom is to live a life of faith, faith in God and through our trust in Jesus.

Romans 10 verse 17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

What Jesus did and much of what He did is written in the scriptures and is what we are called to do. The foundation from which we are to move in power is the *alter* of peace in our hearts.

Joy.

The joy of the Lord is to be our strength, joy is the fruit of knowing God's love that comes to us as we keep His commandments.

John 15 verse 7-11

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

He is wanting us to understand that in keeping His commandments there will be the fruit of joy; just one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

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Galatians 5 verse 22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

John 15 verse 11

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Not only that we obey His word, but that in obeying Him, we shall have increasing joy. The psalmist echoes that same principle.

Psalms 16 verse 11

You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

The kingdom of God is to work in our lives today. As Christians we are to understand what is expected of us in our personal lives, but how are we to do it? We need to start from where we are right at this moment in time. There will be things to put off and things to put on. Old habits die hard, new ones are to be learned and the purpose of all ministry is to teach and to train us in these new concepts.

Following are a list of things to be *put off* like an old garment that is worn out.

1. Lay down your old self.

Ephesians 4 verse 20-24

But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

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2. Don't lie, speak truth with everyone.

Ephesians 4 verse 25

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

3. Keep the devil out! Don't stay angry, forgive one another.

Ephesians 4 verse 26-27

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

4. Don't steal. Obtain your own fruits to give away to others. Be a giver, not just a taker.

Ephesians 4 verse 28

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

5. Watch your words, encourage rather than discourage by finding fault with each other.

6. Rule your spirit, take captive your thoughts before you say something that will tear down. You will grieve the Holy Spirit if you do not do this.

Ephesians 4 verse 30

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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Ephesians 31 -32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

We are called to reign in life with Jesus righteously.

Romans 5 verse 17

For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

It is said of Jesus that He is the same yesterday, today and forever. God has said that He is unchangeable and this means that He will keep all of His promises to the world and to the Church. The new King wants to reign over all things and over every person. If this is to happen things and people have to change because He has said *I change not*. There is no doubt that in the end He will have the last word, so we may as will begin to change right now.

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