

**Daily God Walk**  
**Another Day in**  
**Your Journey of**  
**Faith**  
**March – 2013**

A ministry of:  
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Resources

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV). All other translations used will be credited using these abbreviations:

(KJV) – King James Version

(NKJV) – New King James Version

(TLB) – The Living Bible

(TM) – The Message

## *Daily God Walk for 2013*

The *Daily God Walk* theme for 2013 is Virtues of the Christian Life. Each month features a virtue of the Christian life taken from Galatians 5:22-23 and 2 Peter 1:5-7. Between these two passages there are 11 virtues that every believer should develop.

For the month of December this year the theme is "The King and His Kingdom." We are looking forward to a wonderful year of inspiration and deepening our walk in the Spirit.

### **Daily God Walk for March 2013 The Virtue of Peace in the Christian Life**

Throughout this month we are exploring the virtue of peace. Peace with God, peace within ourselves, and peace with others. The world cries for peace but it cannot be found in the places where they look.

True peace comes from being in right relationship with God, ourselves and others. We can only have that through an intimate relationship with Jesus the Christ.

Some of our devotion titles for this month are: Peace Is A Fruit Of The Spirit; Peace Beyond Human Understanding; Trust Produces Peace And Spiritual Power; Peace Comes From A Quiet Inner Self; Peace That Overcomes The World, and many more.

31 times we explore some aspect of peace as a virtue of the Christian walk. It is our hope that these devotions will inspire you in your journey of faith and motivate you to deepen your relationship God as a Christ Follower.

# **New Features of the Daily God Walk**

## **Daily God Walk Online**

We are now offering internet access to the Daily God Walk. We are posting the Daily God Walk as an e-book and giving our readers an opportunity to register to receive it monthly. At present we are only offering it in a format for the computer, but we will soon have it available for mobile devices.

## **Small Group Study Guide for Daily God Walk**

So many people are responding to the messages in our devotional that we are now offering a study guide each month to help those who want to use the Daily God Walk for discussions in small groups. The study guide is available online at: [www.biblestudydevotions.com/studyguide.html](http://www.biblestudydevotions.com/studyguide.html).

## **Tips on Leading a Small Group**

We have found that there are many folks who want to lead small groups so now you will also find, in the back of the book each month, tips on using the Daily God Walk as a text for small group discussions as well.

## **Small Group Coaching Online**

For many years a focus of our ministry has been small group meetings. We have found that spiritual growth takes place when small groups of believers gather to discuss the Scripture, pray together, share the issues of life and fellowship together.

That is our motivation for expanding our ministry to include small group coaching. If you lead a small group, sometimes called cell group, or if you would like to be a leader, I encourage you to check out our small group site: [www.biblestudydevotions.com/Small-Group\\_Coach\\_One.html](http://www.biblestudydevotions.com/Small-Group_Coach_One.html)

Our hope is that the entire Daily God Walk program will be a blessing to you, a help for spiritual growth and an asset to your ministry.

Daily God Walk for Friday, March 1, 2013

## *Peace Is A Fruit Of The Spirit*

The fruit of the Spirit is... Peace... Against such there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. - Galatians 5:22-23

It seems like everyone in the world is calling for peace. Politically those in leadership justify almost everything they do as attempting to bring peace. Whether it is peace between countries, peace within countries, peace in local communities, peace in the workplace, or peace in relationships; we all want peace.

What does it mean to be at peace? Many years ago in the “cold war” days our adversaries said they wanted peace, but their definition of peace was that the entire world would be under their domination – without resistance. That is not what most of us mean when we speak of peace.

Peace comes when there is confidence in a future and trust that leaders have our best interest at heart. Peace comes when people within a community have a common goal that is good for all. Peace comes in business when management and workers are in agreement on the purpose of the service or product being produced and can perform that process without taking advantage of others. Peace comes in relationships when all parties involved are more concerned about the others than about themselves.

If all of this is true, and we all want peace, why isn't there peace? Notice how verses 19-21 contrasts with verses 22-23. The tendency of human nature is to arrange issues around self and that produces the behaviors and attitudes that Paul gives in the earlier verses. The Spirit working in us draws us to others and the concern we have for our neighbors, as Jesus defined neighbor, produces peace.

Peace comes not when we hold others under our power but when we use our authority to help others be blessed.

**Prayer:** Lord, I'm like everyone else; I want peace. I know that true and lasting peace only comes from you. Grant me the ability to live under the influence of your Holy Spirit so that the fruit of my life is peace. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Saturday, March 2, 2013

## *Peace Beyond Human Understanding*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:7

A characteristic of anxiety is that it disturbs our peace. A paradox that most of us face is that we pray for peace then become anxious over the circumstances of our life. It appears that Paul, in this passage, is giving us a formula for sustained peace in the time of potentially disturbing circumstances.

If we start at the middle of this passage and work back to the beginning we find a formula for peace. We start with a thankful heart, then, with a spirit of thanksgiving we prepare a list of our needs and present them to God trusting that he will take care of those things we have given to him. Strangely, when we have done that in faith with a truly thankful heart, anxiety just melts away and God gives us peace.

What are the circumstances of your life that are disturbing you? Do you, like so many others today, face financial challenges? How about your physical condition; do you suffer with a chronic sickness? Are you challenged by difficult relationships? The answer to all of these circumstances is the same – submit them to God.

We must trust God and his word before we can have a thankful heart. We look to the word of God for assurance and pray until we are thankful for what God has done, then we are ready to petition him for the things that disturb us. Remember we are anxious because we are not trusting God. Trusting God demolishes anxiety and gives us peace.

**Prayer:** Lord, I am quick to become disturbed over circumstances that make my life difficult. Grant me the grace to trust you, particularly when I can't see any way these circumstances are going to come out good. Grant me a thankful heart for what you are doing in my life. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Sunday, March 3, 2013

## *Spiritual Gifts Produce God's Peace*

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church...The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. - 1 Corinthians 14:32-33

When Jesus ascended to heaven he gave his followers the promise that God would send a new comforter. This new comforter would also be a powerful agent in administering the kingdom of God on earth. He then identified this powerful force as the Holy Spirit which would be given to every believer. Throughout the New Testament the Holy Spirit is spoken of as producing righteous fruit in the believers as well as equipping believers with gifts of service to administer the kingdom.

In 1 Corinthians 12-14 Paul is giving instructions concerning the proper way that the gifts of the Spirit are to be administered. The work of the Holy Spirit, and his gifting for ministry, is to promote the kingdom and to produce peace.

Some have been reserved in giving the Holy Spirit freedom to minister in the gifts because they have been told that it will bring confusion and be divisive. That was the very reason Paul was giving the instruction in 1 Corinthians. Of the gifts he says, "All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church." Then he gives instructions on the proper administration of the gifts and promises that "God is not a God of disorder but of peace."

When the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in operation according to the order God established the result will be peace. That is the reason we need to seek God for the gifts to be manifest among us. The peace of God is administered through the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

***Prayer:*** Father, grant me the faith to allow the Holy Spirit to operate through me in such a way that peace is released in the kingdom of God. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Monday, March 4, 2013

## *Peace Is Getting Along With Others*

If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter... do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. - 2 Thessalonians 3:15-16

There is a fine line between not associating with someone who is rebelling against spiritual leadership and “shunning” them. What is the difference? I think the message Bible helps us understand what it is to “not associate” with someone without making them feel like an enemy.

The Message Bible reads, “If anyone refuses to obey our clear command written in this letter, don’t let him get by with it. Point out such a person and refuse to subsidize his freeloading. Maybe then he’ll think twice. But don’t treat him as an enemy. Sit him down and talk about the problem as someone who cares. May the Master of Peace himself give you the gift of getting along with each other at all times, in all ways. May the master be truly among you!” That is good advice.

It seems that the message here is that we should do our best to get along with those who are not participating as they should. The point is not to shun them, but to be careful not to endorse their disobedience by allowing things to go along as if everything was in order.

When we see another in disobedience and act as if there is nothing wrong we cause a breach in the peace. That is, every time we see them we become a bit uncomfortable and we lose our inner peace. However, if we confront the issue in love as a brother or sister and reason with the person, we may win them to the Lord, but even if they do not change, we have not alienated them and we have kept the peace.

***Prayer:*** Lord, It is hard for me to deal with those who are disobedient. I tend to either be too harsh or to just let it go. Grant me the grace to gently confront those who need more grace and thereby keep the peace. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Tuesday, March 5, 2013

## *Trust Produces Peace And Spiritual Power*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

A book could be written from all of the truth that is found in this one verse. First there is the “God of hope.” What a concept. When we gain knowledge about God, who he is and what he can do, hope grows up in our heart. Then we begin to put that hope to the test and discover that the Lord can be trusted. It is when trust is developed that our relationship with him really grows.

This verse mentions three benefits that grow out of trusting the Lord; joy, peace and spiritual power. Our relationship with the Lord develops in much the same way as our human relationships. As our experience with him grows our relationship grows stronger and deeper.

I remember the first date my wife and I had. By the time we parted that evening I had decided that this was the most wonderful woman I had ever met, or she was one of the best liars I had ever met, and I was going to find out which it was. Within just a few days I discovered that she was a most wonderful woman and she was perfect for me. When I came to that conclusion I had great joy, and there was a calm peace that came over me when I was with her.

It is the same with the Lord. We hear all of these outrageous claims about him; he created the heavens and the earth, he heals and delivers from oppression, he gives peace in the middle of tumultuous times – and we don’t know if it is true, but we want to find out. Then as our experience with him grows we realize that not only was everything we heard true, but we had not even heard the half of it.

There is great peace, joy and spiritual power in trusting God.

**Prayer:** Lord, I do love you, and I am learning to trust you even in tumultuous times. Grant me the patience and the tenacity to pursue knowledge and experience with you so that I might have joy, peace and spiritual power. In Jesus name, amen.