

Blessings of Peace

*"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26)*

Is inner peace missing in your life? Do you feel troubled, on edge, unhappy, bothered, worried...Do you wonder where the feelings of peace are? Where is the harmony, satisfaction, serenity, calm, quietness in your soul?

My journey to find that inner peace has been the longest and hardest for me. So many situations in life can cause those feelings of being on edge, agitated, unsettled, resentful...

I'm going to take you through a few key issues and from there; hopefully you can continue your journey with your own reflections and talks with the Lord.

Jesus said:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Fears and worries can keep us on edge. This attitude finally caused Job to say:

"I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil." (Job 3:25-26)

We will know a peace that can only come from God when we go to him and trust him to be with us and help us, instead of being full of worry and fear. Be secure in the faithfulness of God.

Joy, peace and love are found in God's presence. He offers blessings and joy in this life. You don't have to wait until you get to heaven. God wants you to know him and spend time with him now. When you walk with him; you move with him, you follow his ways. Have you given up your walk - to walk with him?

God said to me, "Come dance with me. Let me be your leading man." According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, dance is a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usually performed to music. It is the art of dancing. I think of 'dancing with a partner' as moving in unison - moving as one. It is a wonderful reflection of our walk with the Lord.

Do you want to know how close God really is? Then look at partners dancing. See how close they are standing together. He wants to be that close to you.

As the dance begins, the man normally begins by moving forward and the woman backwards. Moving backwards you can't see what is behind you. Does one dance with fear and panic because they don't know what's coming up, afraid they might run into something? No, actually they are completely relaxed in their partner's arms, trusting him to guide them.

God says, "Let go of your fears, let go of your doubts; trust in me. I will guide you." Just as a partner is trusted to guide you in dance, we need to trust God to guide us. This will help us from being fearful of what is ahead.

When the leading man started moving, his partner moved with him. He didn't run into or over his partner. How did his partner know to move, where to move, how to move? Let me explain. The man leads in dance. The woman focuses on the man, watching, sensing, and feeling the slightest movement. This gives her the ability to move with him in perfect unison. He guides and leads her with the slightest pressure of his hands and movement of his body.

Are you watching, sensing, feeling the slightest movement of God, of the Holy Spirit within you, and the whisper of his voice, causing you to move with him?

Most of the time, the man's leading in dance can't be seen taking place, yet the partner moves easily. It's not necessary for him to yank or throw his partner around to get her to move in the direction he wants. God doesn't want to have to do that either to get your attention. The Holy Spirit prefers to be a gentleman. As you begin to sense the moving of God, begin to move with him in perfect unison.

Let me break this down for you even more. Before the dance begins, a couple has to know that the man starts with the left foot and the woman with the right foot. They have to know who will do the leading. So some knowledge is needed. In the same way, if you want to move with God, you should be familiar with his ways and his thoughts. We have to have the knowledge of how God works. This you learn by reading and hearing his word.

Now what can be done to prepare to start dancing? Since the woman knows she will be moving her right foot first, she stands with the weight of her body already on her left foot, leaving her right foot free to move the instant she is led. Do you need preparation to move with God? Your prayers are good preparation. They help you to learn to listen to and discern his voice, and know the feel of his presence. Then, when you feel his movement or hear his voice you can follow instantly.

God is saying: "Come and dance with me. Focus on me. Move with Me. I Am your leading man."