



“Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.”

2 Corinthians 13:11-12

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior.”

1 Timothy 2:1-3

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”
Hebrews 12:14

I have a friend who from time to time will ask my opinion or advice on the difficult matters that they face. I listen attentively, knowing full well that it isn't counsel that they want but someone to hear them out, as well as a sense of peace about their particular situation. And so, my usual response to this person has become a reminder to: “Pray and search your heart. Trust your gut. The answer you need is there. You won't go wrong with Christ.”

You see, I realized a long time ago that you really can't tell someone else what to do. We can offer opinions or share lessons learned from our own experiences, even point them in a direction of discovery; but each of us makes the final decisions that we choose within ourselves.

But that being said, I do believe that it helps to remember a few key truths along the way. So here are a few things to remember when it comes to maintaining that sense of peace from within:

Peace is a choice. Isaiah 26:3 says, **“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”** We must keep our focus on Christ.

Peace is a balance between desire and possibility. We may not get exactly what we want, but with discussion, revision, and growth from within ourselves, we find a place where we are okay, sometimes better than okay with the outcome.

Peace is freedom. It keeps us from sweating the little things or trying to right the whole world. It gives us the ability to think clearly and act sensibly. To keep a sense of focus, where focus needs to be placed.

And finally, peace is profound. Although we may not fully understand the workings of God within a particular situation, we can experience a deeply felt sense of well-being that “passes understanding.”

I have never met a person who didn't want peace, some sense of harmony, order, or serenity within their lives. The good news is, we can have it. Today. Right in the middle of the storm.

Prayer:

Gracious God,

Help me to choose peace today, by keeping my mind and my heart focused on you.

Amen