

## The Everlasting Covenant of Peace: 2

### Keeping Our Minds Stayed On The Lord

#### Isaiah 54.10

“For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.”

Last week we saw that God has promised to give us an everlasting covenant of peace. In our study we found out exactly what it meant to be under a covenant:

- there was protection and safety
- there was provision
- there was association
- there was relationship – marriage between tribes

We have a covenant of peace – this gives us safety and protection, under our covenant there is provision, there is also relationship and association.

But what is this covenant of peace? What is peace?

The word used in this verse is *shalom*.

**shalom** – not just rest, tranquillity or cessation of war and violence – shalom literally means 'to be safe, well, happy, healthy, prosperous. To make good, full, complete and whole'

wholeness (dictionary def) – lacking nothing, nothing broken or missing.

So we have a covenant with God which is an everlasting covenant for our wholeness, our completeness – to be in the place where nothing is lacking, nothing missing or broken.

One of the things we noted about covenant was that there were conditions – if you do something, then I will do something

God’s part is to keep us in peace – there are things that we have to do:

- believe - we enter into the covenant through faith, and we partake of the benefits of that covenant through faith
- maintain that faith - through prayer, study of the word, fellowship with God and our brethren

#### Isaiah 26.3

“You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You”

You will keep - the words in the original Hebrew literally mean to guard, protect, maintain or conceal

perfect peace - shalom shalom

The promise of God is that we will be kept, guarded and maintained in perfect peace if our mind is stayed on God.

(Amp) - "You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [*both its inclination and its character*] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You"

### **What Does It Mean to have Our Minds Stayed on Him?**

Stayed – 'to lean or lay upon or against; rest on; support or brace oneself; to sustain, refresh or revive; to be established, stand fast'

(NIV) - "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you"

(NLT) - "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you"

(ISV) - "You will keep perfectly peaceful the one whose mind remains focused on you, because he remains in you"

(BBE) - "The man whose heart is unmoved you will keep in peace, because his hope is in you"

(CEV) - "The LORD gives perfect peace to those whose faith is firm"

(NCV) - "You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on you, because they trust You"

### **Ephesians 4.23**

["and be renewed in the spirit of your mind"](#)

Our minds are not automatically stayed on God. Our minds wander and think on many things so we must be renewed in the spirit of our mind so that it is stayed on Him. Having our minds renewed brings a transformation in our lives.

### Romans 12.2

Paul urges us not to conform to the world or it's system but rather to be transformed – we do that by 'training' our mind in the word of God.

### **Exodus 33.11**

["So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle."](#)

On Sunday I read from this chapter and noted a few things about Joshua

- He was Moses' assistant, a 'minister in training'.
- He did not leave the tabernacle even when Moses returned to the camp. Joshua enjoyed the presence of God, He valued his time in God's presence. He was training his mind in the word of God. This was part of what qualified him to be leader of God's people after the death of Moses.
- He had an excellent spirit within him – this was noted when he returned with Caleb from spying out the Promised Land (Numbers 14.24, Numbers 27.18, Deuteronomy 34.9). Where did he get this excellence of spirit – it was formed in him in the presence of God.

## **Joshua 1.8**

After the death of Moses, Joshua assumes leadership of the people of God. God tells Joshua to keep the Word of God in His mouth and before His eyes.

He tells him to meditate on it day and night.

- Bible meditation is not the same as that of eastern religions - It is not an emptying of the mind.
- Bible meditation is to 'repeat over and over, ponder, mutter, rehearse by speaking'

You cannot think on something and speak something differently at the same time, however you can speak and think the same things at the same time.

If we keep our minds stayed on the Word of God it will make our way prosperous and we will enjoy good success – that's the peace of God at work.

## **Psalm 16.7-11**

“...In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

(v11)

David was another man who valued being in the presence of God. He declares that all the fullness of joy can be found in the presence of God

His younger years were spent meditating on the things of God. I believe he spent his time praying, seeking God, worshipping and meditating while he was watching over the sheep.

That is why he was so wise and full of the spirit of God when he came to face Goliath. David knew about the covenant of peace.

## **I Samuel 17.36**

“Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” - ‘this uncircumcised Philistine’ - he doesn't have a covenant.

- Circumcision was the sign of the covenant. Goliath may have been big, he may have been strong, he may have been a man of war from his youth but he didn't have a covenant with God – and David did, and he knew it.
- With that spirit, born out of the presence of God, Goliath had no alternative, he was going down. David made a claim on his inheritance under the covenant – peace had to reign.

Th sons of Korah also enjoyed time in the presence of God - they could write in **Psalm 84.10**, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” - one day in your presence is better than a thousand others.

## **Colossians 3.1-2**

“... Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth”

Fix, establish and set your mind on the things of God, His Word, His purpose and call for you – this is keeping our mind stayed on Him.

Setting our minds, thoughts and affections on above it lifts our eyes and thoughts from off:

- the temporal things of the earth
- the problems and needs
- the difficult situations we face on earth

“too heavenly minded to be any earthly good” - I challenge this statement

### **Philippians 4.6-7**

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Paul urges us to bring our requests, petitions to God. Not to focus on them but to turn them over to God in an act of thanksgiving. When we lift our eyes to Him as the source of our provision, the Bible says that peace would guard our hearts and minds.

Keeping our minds stayed on Him will keep us in perfect peace – we will enjoy the fullness of *shalom* – nothing lacking, nothing missing, nothing broken.