

Ps Key Unstoppable Peace



What do I want them to:

Know: God can give you peace despite all circumstances

Do: Run to God and not away from Him

Intro: Peace is the most sought after commodity in the world in which we live. Everybody is pursuing it without even realizing that is what they are really pursuing. Most have no idea how to attain it & then once do attain it, even less idea of how to hang onto it.

Eg Mr Rudd is trying to find it again after a vote of no confidence in him by his team & Mrs Gillard is trying to bring it to a party of divided loyalty. She has some who are ready to embrace her & some who are still angry about the ousting of their preferred leader.

Then you have people who will the fall of their leader now find themselves unemployed... Peace – its hard to find & even harder to hang onto.

What is Peace? (**Heb.** *shalôm*, “peace, health”; **Gk.** *eirene*, “unity, concord”) The New Unger's Bible Dictionary.

Peace indicates a place of health, unity, wholeness which brings a contentment & completeness.

Dictionary:

- A treaty to cease hostilities,
- The absence of mental stress & anxiety,
- Harmonious relations,
- The state prevailing during the absence of war

Peace – indicates, health, unity, wholeness. Its being in a place of harmonious relations with others. It's a place of calmness without anxiety & mental stress.

Friends why do people have such trouble finding peace? Why is it so elusive? It is because it operates on three levels of life & it can also be lost in three levels of living.

1. We need to be at peace with **OTHERS** in the world around us. In fact the scriptures says as much as it is within your power live at peace with everyone. So when offense happens as it inevitably will it doesn't matter who is right or wrong, what's important is to do whatever it takes to bring peace back to the relationship.

WHY – because this lack of harmony will affect your life in very negative ways. There is a reason sickness is called dis – ease!

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Exercise: Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to forgive you? Who are the people around you who are stuff that need you to offer grace & forgiveness to bring about reconciliation?

Make the call, send the email, write the letter – **Eg** I am really sorry the way things are between us. I realize that I have said & done some things that have probably hurt you & I just wanted to ask your

hurt you & I just wanted to ask your forgiveness. Is there any chance we could meet for coffee sometime to clear the air.

So we need peace with others but before we can achieve that we need peace somewhere else.

2. We need to be at peace with **OURSELVES** – often times, the hardest person to live with is ourselves. We have all made mistakes, we have all sinned, we have all made poor choices & decisions over the course of life. We all carry scars of guilt & shame because of the things we have said & done to affect others.

We need to forgive ourselves. We need to reach a place of peace within. Some of us are still trying to make up for our mistakes so we strive all the more. Our expectations on ourselves are incredibly high and the problem is that then our expectations of others is also too high. Now here is the problem – if I can meet the expectations I have for myself I become stressed & anxious losing peace with myself. So now what happens when you don't even reach the expectations I have for me? Now I am stressed & agitated with you!

So in order to be at peace with OTHERS
We first have to be at peace with OURSELVES
So how do I come to peace within myself?

Mk 2:7 – the scribes & Pharisees were upset with Jesus because he was offering to forgive peoples sins & they understood that only God can forgive sins, they just didn't understand that Jesus was indeed God manifest in the flesh.

- So in order to be at peace with **OTHERS**
- We first have to be at peace with **OURSELVES**
- And in order to be at peace within myself!

3. We need to be at peace with our **GOD** – we must experience what it feels like to be forgiven of sins, we need to know what it feels like to be deserving of death & eternal separation from a Holy God in hell but then through Jesus Christ to receive a full pardon of sins, to be given a clean slate, a new identity. A new start in Christ... You see once you experience that kind of grace & peace you are now in the position to extend what you have received to others.

Remember dictionary definition about the word peace – it means an end of hostilities. Do you know what it says about us before we make the decision to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord & Saviour? It says that we are actually enemies of God!

Col 1: 21 -22 – *once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of our evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*

Did you get that we are enemies of God. Now I am not all that smart a man but I am bright enough to know that having the creator of the universe as my enemy cannot be a good thing. But in Christ I can get a new fresh start blemish free without accusation. Through Jesus Christ – I get the miracle of a clear conscience!

Eg – Exercise - A friend out of sorts with – you remember how that feels. You can't eat, can't sleep as you plot how to get even, every-time you see or even think about them you get angry & moody and it just stresses you out. Have you got that feeling? That is coming from a human relationship that is out of order. So with that in mind, what kind of stress & tension do you think is being caused at a sub conscious level with deep down knowing that our life is out of sorts with our God, our creator is our enemy because of our sinful evil behaviour. Is it any wonder people wander through life on a constant search for contentment, satisfaction wholeness health & unity. We are all desperately trying to find something that deep down within us we know is lost! We are on a pilgrimage to find peace! **Eg** Songwriter said – We are Looking for Love in all the wrong places!

People develop coping mechanisms to cope with the lack of peace :

- Drink to try and pretend its not happening,
- Use Drugs to try and escape & explore others realms to find peace,
- Relationships - jump from bed to bed hoping to find somebody or something that will give my life



- Some strive to prove to the world, family & friends that they really are a some one.
- New age thing around that offers peace & tranquility -**EG** New Age - Body & Spirit Expo in Brisbane... Mission Display)

Everyone is trying to discover a life of peace. A life where we can be at Peace with others & at Peace with ourselves. But everybody is trying to find without having to bring God into the equation. WHY because I don't want my life to be accountable to someone else as that may mean I have to change.

Unfortunately all three levels are connected – we can never live at peace with others until we first become totally secure & at peace with ourselves. And we can never find peace within ourselves until we discover who you are & why you exist and that is only found in making peace with our creator.

Thesis: I believe that everyone can cultivate an atmosphere of peace in and around their life if they make peace with their God, the first cab off the rank.

- So in order to be a peace with **OTHERS**
- We first have to be at peace with **OURSELVES**
- And in order to be at peace within myself I must first be at peace with my **GOD!**

Isaiah 9:6 - Jesus himself the Saviour of the world is referred to as the prince of peace!

There is no lasting peace without a meaningful connection with ones God!

History Lesson:

- Humans had a wonderful relationship with God in the beginning in the garden. Adam & Eve knew exactly who they were & they were at *complete peace with each other, themselves & their God,*
- Humanity was then tricked into rebelling against God making him our enemy. At this point in time sin entered us & a curse came upon this world & we became subject to an inferior tyrant of a master known as the serpent or Satan. Eg essentially we sided with the wrong team & now by default we have accepted his destiny as ours.
- At this point in time we surrendered our privilege of heaven & secured the same destiny of the one who tricked us the devil and hell.
- Humanity lost it all in the garden – peace was gone, relationship was gone & guilt, shame, regret, sorrow & suffering were now to follow.
- Our Holy God withdrew & humanity developed a God shaped hole within. A hole that can never be satisfied by anything other than a relationship with God. The devil knows it & that is why he keeps you on a round about chasing all the meaningless things of this world. He is hoping to distract you long enough so that you fail the make the most important decision of your life & eternity. The choice to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord & Saviour, the choice that will secure your peace & place in heaven.

It is through Jesus & the cross that we can truly know PEACE – peace with God. A peace that allows us:

- To know that our sins & guilt and shame are forgiven.
- That brings contentment in who we are.
- That allows God to reveal to us by his spirit exactly what he created us to be & do,
- That allows you to live in peace with the people around you because you know who you are & you have not need to prove anything to anyone.

So Until – you reach the place of asking forgiveness & surrendering your all to God through Jesus Christ you will always struggle with finding lasting peace.

Salvation Response!



So once we have obtained peace how do we keep it?

This is a huge subject as peace can be disrupted quite easily. Let's look at a two great men of God & how they dealt with this concept of having unstoppable peace.

1 Kings 19- Elijah

History – Chapter 17 - Elijah has made a pretty big statement before Ahab that there will be no dew or rain in the next few years except at his word.

- This is someone who is confident of his back up.
- He is fed by ravens at Kerith Ravine – at God's command,
- Seen God's supernatural provision with a widow & her son who were about to starve to death, but now have an ongoing provision of oil & flour that did not run out,
- Raised the widows boy back from the dead,

Chapter 18 - Elijah on Mt Carmel – this is where he takes on 450 false prophets yes – really V19 – try 850 false prophets.

- Called down fire for a great victory,
- Kills all the false prophets,
- He prays & it starts raining,
- The power of the Lord came upon him & he manages to outrun a chariot all the way back to town,

Chapter 19 – see Jezebel threatening to take Elijah's life, Suddenly all this peace is gone & he is on the run!

- Elijah lost peace- he's afraid (*fear*)- (1 Kings 18: 4 - Jezebel had been killing the prophets – was he really scared of her after all he had experienced with his God? Elijah knew that she would not have power to kill the prophets unless God had decided to allow her to do so) Jesus said the same thing to those trying to kill – you would have no power over me unless it is given your from the Father in heaven.

- Peace is gone & Elijah runs which causes him to lose hope, he is depressed and he wants to die,

Eg Fear

Acronym – False Evidence Appearing Real.

- Angel gives him a feed for the journey ahead(Supernatural – Jesus in the wilderness – angels ministered to him)
- 40 days and nights
- Heads to Mt Horeb- God's mountain
- The Word came to Him
- Wind, Earthquake, Fire- but God was not in it
- Gentle Whisper (The Word of God + the presence of God)= peace & confidence to carry on.

HOW DOES HE LOSE HIS PEACE?

1. **Fear** (he knew Jezebel had been true to her word with all the others so his number might be up also – *uncertainty of future will disrupt peace*)
2. **Focus on his circumstances / not God** - This resulted in him running & losing hope, depressed, and essentially wanted to die.

HOW DID HE GET HIS PEACE BACK?

Listened to the right advice

- The advice of the angel (rest, eat, drink, 40 day journey)
- He set out in faith to get the answer from God,

He ran to God

- He ran from danger but to God (Mt Horeb) and not away from God, he wanted to know from God personally if this was his time.

Eg Run from fear & uncertainty aimlessly from one mistake into another. Like an *Irish Mine Sweeper!*

Not Elijah - wanted to hear from God about his future. So in fear he ran away from Jezebel his circumstances that was causing uncertainty about his future – but he ran to God, he followed supernatural instruction & heading to the place where God hangs out...



Elijah knew that if he heard the Word of God & then experienced the presence of God – then that would equal the power of God to give him back peace & confidence to carry on! A gentle whisper & peace returned.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM ELIJAH - Peace

1. Fear disrupts peace causing uncertainty & a desire to run away– but run purposely / aimlessly, **Eg** Irish Mine Sweeper
2. Run to God & not away from him,
3. Hearing a Word from God in a whisper will lead you to experience the presence of God which guarantees a supernatural peace & confidence in God! **Eg** Daily Bible Reading of Devotions.

Friends until you know why you exist & until you are confident of where you are heading once this life concludes most of what you do will be dictated to by a sub conscious fear from a lack of peace & uncertainty of your eternal future. Fear of death, fear of the future, fear of being left alone, fear of not having enough, fear of not being loved & accepted. Which once again all leads us back to the same place – till you have peace with God, you can never have peace within yourself, which means it is almost impossible to have peace with others around you.

WHAT ABOUT ELISHA CALL– WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM in regard to – Peace? *Obviously out of this whole episode with Jezebel God has decided its time to break in a new prophet as this one seems to have lost his nerve!*

1 Kings 19: 19 – 21

Elijah just threw the mantel on Elisha & walked away. At that point in time Elisha had to make the decision to accept God's call or let it pass him by & walk away,

What Elisha does from here is quite remarkable!

The call in given,

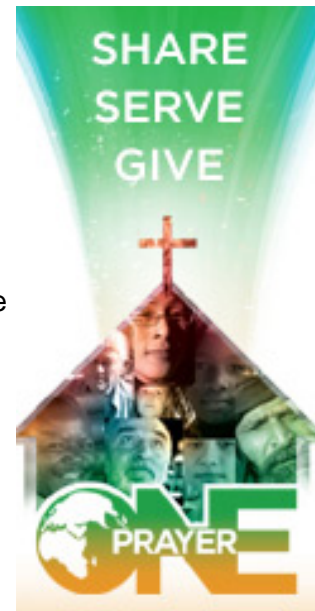
- Elisha wants to go back & say goodbye to his family,
- Elijah is a bit ticked of about it,
- Elisha goes back & slaughters his oxen & burns the ploughing equipment,
- He then invites everyone together to enjoy one last BBQ,
- Elisha then says goodbye and from that point is fully devoted to serving alongside Elijah,

Some people say this showed a weakness in Elijah but I think this showed exceptional wisdom on his behalf. He was setting himself up to be single focused. He wanted to serve God without distraction so he was making adjustments to his life.

- He shuts down his business – creating a situation of total dependence on God,
- It also breaks all ties with his previous life,
- He makes it clear to everyone that he has to follow God's call on his life. No room for ambiguity – everyone is clear mum, dad & friends I have to go because God has a mission for me & I cannot be distracted & torn between two worlds.
- He then confidently with no skeletons in the closet moves on in his walk with God. This brought Elisha great peace & confidence.

So how does that bring about PEACE for him & us today.

1. You need to step **fully into the Call of God** on your life, you need to accept fully what his plan & purpose if for your life,
2. You need to **burn your boats** – **Eg** Cortez upon reaching the new world had the men burn the boats so surrender was not an option. Elisha shut his business down so that when things got tough he would never resort to his back up plan. Friends this is a biggy! Too many receive Christ & they are trying to step into his call on their life while at the same time they have a second option waiting in the wings, a back up plan just in case things get to rough or don't work out. When this option is allowed to coexist after awhile we end up with a foot in both camps.
3. Be proud of being called to follow Christ & inform all your family & friends. Throw a part & explain to them how God has called you to walk with him, from here on my life is going to be very very different. Some will understand & some will not but explain everything in love & then follow God's plan & purpose for your life.



Friends - Unstoppable PEACE

- Comes from your connection with God,
- It is coming from the understanding of who you are in Christ & why you exist on this planet,
- It then out flows out of you towards others in the world around you,

Peace with God leads to a- Peace within yourself which leads to a - peace that can walk closely with others!

Remember Peace can be disrupted by *Fear & Uncertainty of the Future*. Always allow it to cause you to run to God and not aimlessly away from him into greater danger. **Eg** Irish Mine Sweeper

Evaluate your life to make sure you are fully sold out unto God, don't leave any back up plan to cause you to not stick it out when things get tough. Declare to all the road you must take because of God's call on your life.

- Stay in your daily devotions so that the *Word of God can & lead you to the presence of God/Holy Spirit – where peace & confidence prevails.*
- Choose friends carefully – hand around ones who draw you nearer to God and not away.

To have peace with others, you must first have peace within yourself & to have peace with yourself you must have peace with the one who created you! You must encounter the prince of peace who made it possible for you to enter back into relationship with a Holy God.

Closer – many of us are trying to reach peace with others while we do not have peace within ourselves. As much as is possible live at peace with all – you sort your heart out with God and leave the rest to Him.

Is there someone you **need to forgive** – remember as much as depends on you live at peace with all!

Is there an issue you need to ask God to **forgive you** in – **1 John 1:9** *if we confess our sins he is faithful & just to forgive us & purify us from all unrighteousness...*

If you didn't pray the prayer earlier to ask Jesus **Christ to be Lord & Saviour of your life but now feel like you would like to..** During this time ask God to reveal himself to you, ask him to forgive your sins & remove all guilt & sorrow, thank him for sending Jesus to die in your place & then ask him to be your lord & Saviour, offer him your whole life to do with as he desires. Ask him to create a masterpiece of your life & then make it as productive as he can as you walk the road towards heaven together.

