

# The Prayer Class

**Purpose:** *To encourage greater participation and joy in prayer*  
*The Prayer Class meets in God's Throne Room 24/7*

Teacher: Abe Funk

Date: October 26, 2023

**Lesson:** Pray for Peace Within

## Welcome to The Prayer Class:

Loving Father, our world desperately needs peace, and your people need to experience the inner peace you have promised. We invite you into our lives to bring your peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

**Bible Reading:** Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but **we also rejoice** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Key Verse:** *...since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ 5:1.*

## Background and Lesson:

As I prepare to write about peace within, I wonder how many of God's people are experiencing God's peace within every day. Peace within is a gift promised by God and is available to every believer. Jesus promised it in John 14:27, *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.* Is that for real? Is it for every Christian, to be experienced every day no matter what happens in our lives or in the world? Sound too good?

The word *peace* occurs 679 times in the Bible, so it is an important topic in Scripture. It's used in different settings in the Old and New Testaments. In Leviticus 26:6 God said, *I will grant peace in the land*, meaning national peace. Jesus' promise of peace is individual peace within us. Everyone wants both national and personal peace, but many are looking for peace in wrong places. Some look for peace at the end of a gun, or in pleasure or wealth or popularity. Real peace, whether national or personal can only come from God, and only when we surrender to him and follow him.

*Shalom* was the Jewish greeting in the Old Testament era, but Jesus took it to a new level of significance when he greeted his fearful disciples following his resurrection in Luke 24:36. Jesus' *peace be with you*, had a greater significance for these frightened disciples than a mere salutation. Jesus secured this peace for all believers on the cross. This peace is not just the absence of conflict, it is contentment and inner peace even in times of trials, suffering and hardship. I experienced that recently when I was left unattended in an emergency ward for many hours due to the shortage of doctors. I sensed the Lord with me despite the excruciating pain I suffered.

When God created the world and people, there was peace between God, his creation and with his people. Disobedience to God broke that relationship causing conflict and fear at every level of life. But God made a way back to himself and back to the peace he intended. God's justice and his wrath against evil had to be satisfied and people needed forgiveness. God devised an amazing way to accomplish both needs; by giving his only Son to die in our place, that satisfied both God's demands and our needs. We needed to repent of our sin and turn to God in faith. ...*since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ* Romans 5:1. God did it all; we can't add one thing.

Peace with God then is the first step in the journey to peace within. Assurance that our sins past, present and future are forgiven, and the promise of eternal life gives us that desired inner peace. If we should die today, we would be with him in heaven as he has promised—we can rest in peace with that assurance.

Accept this gift of peace Jesus has offered you. My peace I give you, Jesus offered—it's a gift, receive it with thanks. Then, *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts*, as Paul tells us in Colossians 3:15. The word *rule* is like an umpire. The world series baseball games start this week, and the umpire will be in control of the game making sure that the game is played by the rules. Let Christ's gift of peace rule your life. Jesus declared, *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world* John 16:33. Peace during trouble, that is one exciting great gift!

This peace is available to you today. Peace must begin with us, with me, if there will ever be peace in our families and in the world. Jesus invited us to be peacemakers Matthew 5:9. Having the Lord's peace within, we can share that peace and make our world a little better place Ephesians 6:15.

**Quote:** *...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* Philippians 4:7.

### **Think About This:**

If you have a concordance look up all the verses on peace you can find. You will be blessed!

### **A Prayer for You:**

*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.

### **My Notes and what To Pray for:**

Add your prayer requests here: yourself, family, church family, missionaries, & leaders in government

Note: All Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated

***Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful*** Colossians 4:2

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