

Bible Study Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 3:1-12

"The one who desires life, to love and to see good days, must...seek peace and pursue it..."
(1 Peter 3:10a, 11b, NASB).

We are sojourners, just passing through; but God intends for us to enjoy this life, love others well, and see many good days here on earth. Thankfully, God does not leave us scratching our heads about how to accomplish this task. Throughout the Bible we have many clear instructions about how to rest satisfied in this life, and at the heart of most of those instructions is the goal of pursuing peace. In His first sermon, Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9, NASB). So how do we pursue peace?

Keep Your Tongue from Evil and Your Lips from Speaking Deceit (1 Peter 3:10)

Matthew 12:33-37, James 3:1-10

One of the most difficult parts of peace-making is controlling your tongue. By your words, you can inspire peace, but careless words can quickly undo all that you have accomplished. In this task, Jesus teaches that the mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart. It is for this reason we must be certain our heart is prepared before we speak. How do you prepare your heart to speak what is good? How do you rid your heart of evil? How can you control your tongue when you find yourself in a situation where your heart has not been adequately prepared?

Turn Away from Evil and Do Good (1 Peter 3:11)

Proverbs 4:20-27, Proverbs 3:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:22-26

As Christians, we are called to a two-step. It is a dance that should become intimately familiar in your thoughts and actions. You turn away from evil and pursue what is good. The Bible confirms again and again that both of these actions are equally important if you are to live a peaceful life. Take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit's conviction in this area. What are the evils you find easy to turn from, and what are the evils you find difficult to avoid? What are the good things you find easy to pursue, and what are the good things God is encouraging you to do, which you find difficult?

Seek Peace and Pursue It (1 Peter 3:11)

James 3:13-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Isaiah 26:3-4, Galatians 5:22

The Bible is clear about the source of our peace, and yet sometimes this gift seems so illusive. Like many other qualities we seek in this life, it involves a battle of the heart and mind. Colossians 3:15 reveals that we must allow the peace of Christ to rule our hearts. We must allow His peace to have control in our minds. You must set peace before you as a goal, and then pursue it, because it does not come naturally. How important is peace to you; what value do you place on it? How are you seeking God as the source of your peace?