

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



The Names of God

This side of Heaven, it is impossible for our finite human minds to fully comprehend God's infinite, holy, awe-inspiring nature. We can only know what God chooses to reveal about Himself. In Scripture He reveals Himself to us through His attributes and through His names. We considered God's attributes earlier this year, so now we begin a series on the names of God.

The Lord God is Peace

In the last devotional we considered God as Shepherd. Where does the Shepherd lead His sheep? Beside peaceful, still waters, "He leads me beside the still waters; He makes me lie down in green pastures" (Psalm 23:2).

In English peace normally means absence of conflict or a state of tranquility and quiet. Shalom is a much deeper and richer word. The word is better expressed by completeness, wholeness, harmony, fulfillment, of entering into a state of wholeness and unity, of restored relationship.

There is a peace that only God can give. It is a peace that the world cannot understand. In the midst of tests and trials the peace of God that passes all understanding brings us to a place of great comfort. Only a serious Christ-follower can truly understand the mystery of the workings of the Holy Spirit in this way. This is a peace that the world can't understand, a peace that only Jehovah-shalom can give.

Reflections from Scripture on the Lord God as Peace (Yahweh Shalom)

Numbers 6:24-26 *The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Judges 6:22-24 *Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the Lord. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." But the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and called it, The Lord Is Peace (Shalom).*

Psalms 29:11 *May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!*

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 26:3 *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.*

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

Philippians 1:2 *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Hebrews 13:20-21 *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

When Peace Like a River

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

My sin, O the joy of this glorious thought,
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

O, Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

(“When Peace Like a River” words by Horatio G. Spafford and music by Philip P. Bliss, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

“Resting On God”

The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions

O God, most high, most glorious, the thought of Your infinite serenity cheers me, for I am toiling and moiling, troubled and distressed, but You are forever at perfect peace. Your designs cause You no fear or care of unfulfillment, they stand fast as the eternal hills. Your power knows no bond, Your goodness no stint. You bring order out of confusion, and my defeats are Your victories: The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

I come to You as a sinner with cares and sorrows, to leave every concern entirely to You, every sin calling for Christ's precious blood; revive deep spirituality in my heart; let me live near to the great Shepherd, hear His voice, know its tones, follow its calls. Keep me from deception by causing me to abide in the truth, from harm by helping me to walk in the power of the Spirit. Give me intenser faith in the eternal verities, burning into me by experience the things I know; Let me never be ashamed of the truth of the gospel, that I may bear its reproach, vindicate it, see Jesus as its essence, know in it the power of the Spirit.

Lord, help me, for I am often lukewarm and chill; unbelief mars my confidence, sin makes me forget You. Let the weeds that grow in my soul be cut at their roots; grant me to know that I truly live only when I live to You, that all else is trifling. Your presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong and happy. Abide in me, gracious God.