

Peace for the Journey ... July 14, 2010

Scripture Reading: [James 3:13-18](#)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Jesus, quoted in Matthew 5:9)

Peace is an elusive gift of the Holy Spirit ([Galatians 5:22](#)). Most, if not all, of us have been in the midst of brokenness or alienation at some point in our lives. We have experienced the lack of peace and longed for healing within the human family, and we have prayed for peace.

In the Bible, peace is an important theme, but it means far more than the absence of war between nations. We pray and long for peace in many areas of life. By God's grace we experience peace with God and call it salvation ([Romans 5:1](#)). We pray for peace in broken families and communities. We are often intensely aware of situations where people we know and love are at odds with one another and cannot (or will not) resolve their differences. Conflict divides homes, churches, communities, and nations.

We also know that peace -- or lack of peace -- is an intensely personal inner experience. Our divided selves seek the peace that passes understanding ([Philippians 4:7](#)). We also know that our lack of inner peace often contributes to lack of (interpersonal) peace in our relationships.

Thankfully, we follow the Prince of Peace, the one who promises that peacemaking is one of God's priorities and that peacemakers experience God's blessing.

So ... pray for peace; look for signs of God's peace in your life and in the world; and be a peacemaker. Today.

Dear God: I am often overwhelmed by the lack of peace in my life, and I confess that sometimes I contribute to the brokenness, separation, and conflict around me. Grant me the gift of peace that can only come from you. Give me the courage to be a peacemaker as I follow your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen