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Role of Peacemaker a Ubiquitous Blessing

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The angels sang at Jesus' birth, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of goodwill" (Luke 2:14, *Nestle Greek*).



This verse is read and sung at Christmas Holiday Season. The literal Greek here indicates that peace is most likely to come to men and women

who extend goodwill to others.

In this series of the Beatitudes, we're looking at number seven: "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God" (*Ibid. Gr.*),

Peacemaking is a supernatural work. Peace not only means reconciliation between conflicting parties but further it is actively working at making peace. It is bringing about wholeness and well being among the alienated.

Galatians 3:26 says, "For in Christ we are all sons of God through faith."

An acrostic for faith that I like is: "Forsaking All I Take Him" (Rev. Dick Winkley). Sounds like a wedding vow, and I guess it is, in that it speaks of an eternal spiritual union with God.

This is the greatest inner peace event in one's life. Before Jesus' death and resurrection, He said to His followers, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I

give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

I'll give you a personal example of needing peace. In school I was in a confrontation class where students were encouraged to let their feelings about one another be known. One man began to make a negative connection with me. Having spoken only a few words with me previously, Tom (pseudonym) said, "I don't like you!"

This comment me took me by surprise, especially because no one had ever made a comment to me like that. Maybe they had thought it, but never said it.

My response came effortlessly, "Well, just because you do not like me doesn't mean that I do not like you." I actually felt peaceful as I said this.

I had several other word hits from him that year but each time I responded and engaged him in group to work through the conflict. By the end of the year, we had both practiced our skills and were on a friendship basis.

As I look at this seventh Beatitude, and my class, I feel like a peacemaker. I have to admit I was often uncomfortable thinking and planning how to interact with him in class. It was not fun, but I also grew from the experience.

One of my favorite verses describes God's help to me, "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

There are nine fruits of the Spirit and one of them is "peace." There are seven pieces of the Armor of God, one being the "shoes of the Gospel of peace."

In the King James Version of the Bible the word "peace" is mentioned 400 times (Yahoo! Answers). If a person wants to absorb some peace, they can check a concordance and read these "peace verses." The entire Bible can be downloaded on computer, *gratis*.

"*Shalom*" is peace in Hebrew. In a secular sense it means, "hello" and "goodbye." In a spiritual sense it means wholeness, health, the absence of agitation and discord, and peace. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace or "*Sar Shalom*" (Isaiah 9:6).

I love to hear the Aaronic Blessing sung or prayed in Hebrew and English. I'll close with it for you:

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:23-26).

Be blessed and at peace, my friend.

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