

*To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.** (Colossians 1:2)*

Peace/shalom was the common **salutation** used by Hebrews when greeting each other.

Grace and peace are the primary elements **necessary for examining Scriptures** and must be **received** as a gift from the **God who inspires** them.

This grace/peace greeting is found at the beginning of **13 of Paul's letters** and 1 of **John's**.

Looking at a number of **passages** mentioning peace brings more **insight** into what God has in mind.

*Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. You will **keep him in perfect peace**, Whose **mind is stayed on You**, Because **he trusts in You**.* (Isaiah 26:2-3 NKJV)

*Yahweh, **you will ordain peace for us**, for **you have also worked all our works for us**. Yahweh our God, **other lords besides you** have had dominion over us, but **by you only** will we make mention of your name.* (Isaiah 26:12-13)

*For to us a child is born. To us a son is given; and **the government will be on his shoulders**. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.* (Isaiah 9:6)

*In that day, sing to her, "A pleasant vineyard! I, Yahweh, am its keeper. I will water it every moment. Lest anyone damage it, I will keep it night and day. Wrath is not in me, but if I should find briers and thorns, I would do battle! I would march on them and I would burn them together. Or else **let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me. Let him make peace with me.**"* (Isaiah 27:2-5)

*I create the **fruit of the lips: Peace, peace**, to him who is **far off** and to him who is **near**, says Yahweh; and I will heal him. But **the wicked** are like the troubled sea; for it **can't rest**, and its waters cast up mire and dirt. **There is no peace**, says my God, **to the wicked**.* (Isaiah 57:19-21)

*But he will speak to this nation with stammering lips and in another language; to whom he said, "**This is the resting place. Give rest to weary;**" and "**This is the refreshing;**" yet **they would not hear**. Therefore the word of Yahweh will be to them precept on precept, precept on precept; line on line, line on line; here a little, there a little; that they may go, **fall backward, be broken, be snared, and be taken**.* (Isaiah 28:11-13)

*A big wind storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that **the boat was already filled**. He himself was **in the stern, asleep on the cushion**, and they woke him up, and told him, "**Teacher, don't you care that we are dying?**" He awoke, and **rebuked the wind**, and said to the sea, "**Peace! Be still!**" The wind ceased, and **there was a great calm**. He said to them, "**Why are you so afraid?** How is it that you have **no faith?**" They were greatly afraid, and said to one another, "**Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**"* (Mark 4:37-41)

*Show us your loving kindness, Yahweh. Grant us your salvation. I will hear what God, Yahweh, will speak, for **he will speak peace to his people, his saints**; but **let them not turn again to folly**.* (Psalms 85:7-8)

*But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will **teach you** all things, and will **remind you** of all that I said to you. **Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives, give I to you. **Don't let your heart be troubled**, neither let it be **fearful**. (John 14:26-27)*

***I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace**. In the world you have oppression; but **cheer up! I have overcome the world**. (John 16:33)*

*But all things are of God, who **reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ**, and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation; namely, that **God was in Christ reconciling** the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation. We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us. **We beg you** on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God**. For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God**. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)*

*Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom we also have our **access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. **We rejoice in hope of the glory of God**. (Romans 5:1-2)*

This actually brings us back around to the **core issue** ungirding everything else – **God's reputation**. When our **life passion** becomes **saving God's reputation** more than anything else, we will then be in **sync with our original design** of **reflecting God's heart** which brings **glory to His honor**.

When people around us witness the peace of God emanating out of our lives, His peace acts as a magnet to draw people to want more of it for themselves.

*Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the **glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were **terrified**.*

*The angel said to them, "**Don't be afraid**, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** which will be to **all the people**. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior; who is Christ the Lord. This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, **on earth peace, good will toward men**." (Luke 2:9-14)*

The Prince of **Peace started as a baby** – as **non-threatening** as is possible.
This is our **source of peace**.