

January

Jesus - Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

We're working our way through the name of Jesus in this passage of scripture. They not only teach us what to call Him. They reveal His nature and heart toward us. This week, we're turning our hearts toward Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Many of you have come to The Clearing via the six-week study of, *Peace: Hope & Healing for the Anxious Momma's Heart*. Some of you here have not yet taken that journey. So, whether I'm talking to you, the momma who has walked with Peace out of the forest of fear, or you, the momma who knows Peace Himself, but hasn't walked taken that course, I believe much of what you read this week will be a refresher about what you already know to be true about Jesus the Prince of Peace.

My prayer is that this week's lesson is exactly what the Holy Spirit wants you to remember today and that you accept His invitation to reencounter God's heart in this way.



What comes to mind when you hear *Prince of Peace*?

From Strong's concordance, the word Prince in Hebrew is *sar*. It means chieftain, chief, ruler, official, captain, prince.

We find *sar* used in scripture to describe commanders of armies, captains of bodyguards, leaders, rulers and princes. It describes those who have authority over their given jurisdictions.

Also from Strong's concordance, peace in Hebrew, is a word you might recognize- *shalom*. It is defined as completeness, soundness, welfare, peace. According to the **Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon**, *shalom* is used in scripture to describe completeness of number, safety, soundness of body, welfare, health, prosperity, quiet, contentment, peace among friends, peace with God, peace from war.

I don't know about you, but in my life, I need Jesus - the authority, ruler, captain, authority over wholeness, soundness of body, health, contentment, peace with God and others, peace from war.

There isn't any authority higher than His. There isn't any power greater than His. I need Jesus the ultimate authority of *shalom*. I need Jesus, the Prince of Peace. What about you?



You have read where Jesus spoke these words to His friends in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Take just a moment and read that scripture again but rather than think of peace as an experience, think of peace in this passage as Jesus Himself.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

When we read this, we may think of peace as something the disciples would feel. Maybe with think of Jesus giving them contentment or tranquility. But in this passage, Jesus isn't offering the experience of a calm life.

We know this is true because in John 16:33 Jesus says, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

He's not promising the absence of stress or strife. He's promising them the presence of the Prince of Peace. He's offering them the total shalom peace which is only available through the gift of the Holy Spirit, revealing Jesus in their lives.

Peace is not a gift we can experience a part from the Lord. When Jesus gives us Peace, He offers us His own heart.

So often we are chasing the experience of peace rather than the presence of the One called Peace. Our motives can be backward. Pursue peace - find Jesus too. But when we realize that pursuing peace means pursuing the Person, we find more than just rest for our hearts, we find that He is the ultimate authority over every area of our lives as well.



Let's Pray

Father, thank You for the call to Peace that You have imprinted on our hearts. When we turn our eyes away from You, we don't lose Your presence, but we lose our perception of where You are in our stories and our storms. Help us turn our gaze back to You, Lord, the Prince of Peace. We ask in Jesus's name, Amen.

