

Jesus the Messiah: Peace, Purposes, Presence and Promises

Isaiah 46:1-5; 8-11

**"Listen to me, house of Ya'akov,
all who remain of the house of Isra'el:
I have borne you from birth,
carried you since the womb.
Till your old age I will be the same—
I will carry you until your hair is white.
I have made you, and I will bear you;
yes, I will carry and save you.
To whom will you liken me and equate me?
With whom will you compare me, as if we were similar?"**

**"Remember things that happened
at the beginning, long ago—
that I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.
At the beginning, I announce the end,
proclaim in advance things not yet done;
And I say that my plan will hold,
I will do everything I please to do.**

**I call a bird of prey from the east,
the man I intended, from a distant country.
I have spoken and will bring it about;
I have made a plan, and I will fulfill it." ¹**

CJB

¹ David H. Stern, Complete Jewish Bible: An English Version of the Tanakh (Old Testament) and B'rit Hadashah (New Testament), 1st ed. (Clarksville, MD: Jewish New Testament Publications, 1998). Isaiah 46:1-5; 8-11

Jesus Messiah: Peace - Shalom

One Root - Many Vines

There is one Hebrew word that the world seems to acknowledge and even accept. The word is SHALOM. It is heard in hellos and goodbyes, sung in worship songs in our synagogues and churches, whispered in our prayers, and used in thousands of design graphics, websites, and URLs. Shalom is an ancient word whose meanings have remained intact and, despite its antiquity, still holds modern-day relevance. The biblical word shalom also holds paradoxical value. For example, the following statements about shalom can both be true simultaneously, even though they appear contradictory. Here are those two eternally true statements:

- (1) One can be at perfect peace within the presence and righteousness of Christ Jesus.

- (2) One can also, in the same moment, be at war with the influence of sin and evil through the work and weakness of our flesh.

Finally, the word *shalom* has been spoken from the lips of mankind into a million moments of longing and hunger for the peace and presence of God in Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

As a point of restating the obvious, *shalom* is most commonly translated as “peace”. However, that particular English alternative can only scratch

the surface of its depth of meaning. It is like casually calling the sky “blue” when asked to define and describe it.

Shalom is not merely the absence of conflict. It is the presence or condition of wholeness.

Shalom is not just a temporary ceasefire between warring enemies. It is the restoration of compatibility, communion, and unanimity between all things—within ourselves, with one another, with creation, and with God. *Shalom* presents blending and mending where there was fragmentation and tearing, of settling what was unsettled, paying what was owed, completing what was unfinished, and finding what was lost. To fully unpack the word *shalom* in *Hebrew Scripture* is to step into God’s purpose and design for the world as it was meant to be.

The Hebrew language can best be described as a language of roots. A quick biblical example would be the root of the Hebrew word *adam*. *Adam* / אָדָם means (*man, Adam, or mankind*). *Ben-Adam* / בֶּן-אָדָם means (*son of man*). *Adama* / אֲדָמָה means (*earth, ground, or soil*). *Dam* / דָּם means (*blood*). *Adom* / אָדָם means (*red or crimson*). There are actually a few more from the root word *Adam* that uniquely connect to one another in the context of Creation. Using the “*one root, many vines*” example, let’s look at *shalom*.

The root of the Hebrew word ***shalom*** — שָׁלוֹם [*shin-lamed-vav-mem*] — is connected by a common root to words such as ***shalem*** (*complete, whole*),

leshalem (to pay off a debt, or make restitution for a debt), and **mushlam** (to perfect, or become perfect). To be in a condition or place of *shalom* is to be whole. Lacking nothing and wanting for nothing; nothing fragmented, nothing torn apart. *Shalom* cannot be narrowly defined or confined to emotions or circumstances—it is about the reality of the condition. Specifically, *spiritual, socio-economic, and physical* conditions. That is why the meaning of *shalom* must include human welfare or condition. Welfare such as prosperity, safety, health, harmony, and perfection—all at once. We can see this inclusion within the vast context of *shalom* as it comes to light for us in biblical application.

Judges 6:22-24

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 (Adonai Shalom).² ESV

Gideon named his altar “YHWH SHALOM,” meaning “*The Lord is peace.*” Not simply the *bringer of peace*. Not simply a *peaceful place*. But literally, **peace and wholeness themselves**. The **source** from which all harmony is drawn. When we welcome one another with the greeting “**Shalom,**” we

² The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025.
[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025).

are not merely saying, “*I hope you are doing well.*” We are saying: “*May you be whole. May you be as you were meant to be.*”³

Peace Personified

SHALOM is personified in the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah. In Yeshua the Christ, peace becomes flesh. Jesus did not simply teach peace; He is Peace.

Ephesians 2:14-16

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.*⁴ ESV

He didn't just proclaim forgiveness to mankind; He became the only way to reconciliation for all mankind. Jesus the Messiah stepped into the space of brokenness and of separation between God and humanity. In that shalom space, there is both healing and wholeness.

³ Bar, Eitan. *Lost in Translation: 15 Hebrew Words to Transform Your Christian Faith* (Recovering the Original Gospel Series) (pp. 14-16). (Function). Kindle Edition.

⁴ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Eph 2:14–16.

It is important to note that Jesus the Messiah did this not as a warrior bent on physically destroying His enemies, but as a suffering Servant who bore our wounds to make us whole so that we might be redeemed in His peace and presence. Isaiah prophesied it plainly:

Isaiah 53:5-10

But he was wounded because of our crimes, crushed because of our sins; the disciplining that makes us whole fell on him, and by his bruises we are healed. We all, like sheep, went astray; we turned, each one, to his own way; yet ADONAI laid on him the guilt of all of us. Though mistreated, he was submissive—he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to be slaughtered, like a sheep silent before its shearers, he did not open his mouth. After forcible arrest and sentencing, he was taken away; and none of his generation protested his being cut off from the land of the living for the crimes of my people, who deserved the punishment themselves. He was given a grave among the wicked; in his death he was with a rich man.

Although he had done no violence and had said nothing deceptive, yet it pleased ADONAI to crush him with illness, to see if he would present himself as a guilt offering. If he does, he will see his offspring; and he will prolong his days; and at his hand ADONAI's desire will be accomplished.⁵ CJB

⁵ David H. Stern, Complete Jewish Bible: An English Version of the Tanakh (Old Testament) and B'rit Hadashah (New Testament), 1st ed. (Clarksville, MD: Jewish New Testament Publications, 1998), Is 53:5–10.CJB

Jesus is not just the “Prince of Peace” in the poetic sense. He is the One who restores the universe to its original place of consonance and synchrony. He pays the (*leshalem*) the debt that no one else could pay. He forgives, reconciles, and completes. In Him, we see the full force of *shalom* unleashed—not as an abstract principle, but as a living reality.

The Grace of Reconciliation Signals the Beginning of Peace

Shalom that is genuine is not forced on us from the outside. True *shalom* begins deep within, where the human soul collides with grace. Jesus did not come to appease an angry God. He came to reveal the true face of God—a Father who moves quickly toward prodigals, who forgives seventy times seven (490 times a day), who lays down His own life for enemies.

When Christ reconciled us to God, He wasn’t satisfying divine wrath—He was shattering the illusion that God is like the pagan and carnal deities who demand blood to be pacified. ***Jesus didn’t die to change God’s heart about us. He died to change our hearts about God.*** This is the very premise of divine love: that while we were still enemies, Christ embraced us. And in that embrace, we are made whole. This is *SHALOM*. Not tolerance. Not truce. But radical restoration and transformation. Once we see this clearly, we can never again simply imagine that the Messiah’s mission is to return solely for the purposes of a blood-soaked avenger. The Lamb does not switch tactics - He remains the Lamb.

Blessed are the Peacemakers - Not Pacifists

To be clear, affirming *shalom* is not a call to naïve pacifism. The world is broken. Evil exists. Because "love always protects" (1 Corinthians 13:7), there are times when force must be used to protect the innocent, to restrain chaos, to uphold justice. The work of good, decent, and lawful police officers, soldiers, and judges is not dismissed here. Scripture acknowledges this. ***But here is the key:*** protection is not extermination. Justice is not unrighteous vengeance. And the *shalom* Jesus brings is not achieved through the power of domination and control—it is born through the sacrifice of love and humility that costs everything. This is why Jesus didn't just teach about peace—He absorbed violence without passing it on. He ended the pattern and curse of retaliation by letting it die with Him on the cross.

The Way of Shalom

The kingdom of God is not built on the carnage and destruction of its enemies. It is built on the Righteousness, Glory, and Love of God. His kingdom is being built every time we allow love to mend what evil, hatred, and hostility have broken. The apostle Paul reminds us of this very thing in a letter to the church of Rome.

Romans 14:17

“The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, *Shalom*, and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

This kind of peace changes everything. It shapes and reforms how we manage conflict, how we forgive and are forgiven, and how we resist evil

without becoming evil ourselves. It changes how we raise children, how we speak truth, and how we pray for our enemies. *Shalom* is not just something we receive; it must also be something we give. It is to those purposes for which we are called.

The Practical Aspects of Shalom

So, what does it mean to live a life of *shalom* now? It means we pursue wholeness in every dimension of our relationship with God, through humility and trust. This peaceful humility and trust must reach and touch our relationships with those we love and even those we do not. This is done by propagating the virtues of forgiveness, compassion, and courage. Regarding ourselves, we should remember to reject shame and embrace grace. We do so in our relationship with Creation by being caretakers rather than just consumers. We become peacemakers—not just peace-wishers. The truth is, peacemaking is often painful - the life of Jesus here on earth surely has taught us that much. Because of those realities, the practical aspects of *Shalom* should look like the following:

Be obedient to step into conflict when led by the Spirit to do so - *with righteous intent to share the full measure of grace and to spread the wings of healing.*

Resist all temptation to weaponize and wound using *the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace.*

Carry within you the willingness and patience, knowing that the message and mission of peace are often misunderstood more than understood.

Maintain the humility to absorb insults and persecution without giving way to the urge for vengeance and retaliation.

To proclaim the message of peace in every situation, “There is a better way to live and love - find it in Christ Jesus.”

Be content to live in the peace of Christ, even when that peace passes all reason and all understanding.

Conclusion

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

There are no provisional promises here from Jesus to those good folks among us who are the peacekeepers, the peaceful, or even the career conflict avoiders. The promises and provisions in the context of Yeshua’s teaching are to the peacemakers—the builders, the restorers, the healers. The call to *shalom* - that is our calling.

To know *shalom* is to know Christ Jesus the Messiah. He is not just peaceful. He is peace itself - He is the essence of *Shalom*. He doesn’t just

desire our wholeness—He is our wholeness. In real-time, Iran, Israel, the U.S., and the entirety of the Middle East are filling the global theatre with the rhetoric and the prospects of posturing and readying for continued war, division, and spiritual fragmentation for the noble purposes of human dignity and freedom. It is painful to see, even from a great distance. But it was right there (in that very region) that Jesus spoke over the chaos:

John 14:26-27

“...But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.” ESV

The peace of Jesus the Messiah is not fragile - it is both resilient and eternal. It is not circumstantial but inclusive. It is rooted in reconciliation and in His divine eternal love - love that does not ever let go. As we learn to walk and live in that peace, to dwell in that wholeness, and to extend that restoration to others, we become ambassadors of *shalom*—partners in the healing of the world. Let *shalom* become more than just a word. Let it become like the air that you breathe, a treasured place in your heart, a compass and conscience in your relationships. Let it slow you down enough for its stillness to completely relieve your fears, and heal your wounds. Let it awaken you. Let the peace of God in Christ Jesus heal what is broken. And when the world demands vengeance, let your life declare: SHALOM!, the Peace and Presence of Christ the Messiah be with you.

Jesus the Messiah: Peace, Purpose, Presence, and Promises

Acts 17:24-28

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for *'In him we live and move and have our being'*; as even some of your own poets have said, *'For we are indeed his offspring.'* ESV

3.15.26

Jesus Messiah: Purpose - *Ma'an*

The Hebrew term for the word “purpose” is *ma'an* [מען]. It is most commonly used in biblical texts to articulate motive or intent, indicating the reason behind an action or decision. For example, *ma'an*, or purpose, is used in various contexts, such as covenant expectations and agreements, and in prophetic statements to convey divine intentions and human responses. Before we move on, let’s quickly clarify a frequent mistake that is made when talking about interpreting and understanding the definitions and biblical insights for the word **purpose**. In the context of this teaching, we are not talking about finding *meaning*. *Purpose* and *Meaning* are not the same thing.

Meaning is about understanding revelations of the past. Purpose is about fulfillments that determine the future.

Interestingly, it has pleased God that both the meaning and purpose for humankind are revealed and fulfilled in the person and presence of Yeshua the Moshiach. The Bible is distinctly clear about our need for a Savior. Jesus the Messiah is both the meaning and the purpose we seek and need. Listen while I read to you.

Acts 17:24-28 ESV

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, for *‘In Him we live and move and have our being’*” ...

Colossians 1: 16-17 ESV

“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

Romans 8:28 ESV

“And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

Ephesians 1:7-12 ESV

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the

mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

These passages of eternal truth can leave us with only one conclusion. The purpose we seek and need is exclusively found in Jesus the Messiah. No matter what our culture tells us or what my flesh wants for me, it is His purpose for us, not our purpose for ourselves. It is His, not mine - Him, not us. He has a purpose for us: it is in Him, for Him, by Him, through Him, it is Him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 ESV

“But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

Purpose - His, Not Mine; Him Not Me

The philosophical, spiritual, and practical concepts of *one's purpose* have saturated the conversations of education, religion, and literary institutions over the last quarter-century. We have had *The Purpose Driven Life, Find*

Your Purpose, Know Your Purpose, Discover Your Purpose, Being True to Your Purpose, Redefining Your Purpose, Reimagining Your Real Purpose, Does Your Life Have Purpose? Living Your Life on Purpose, and Did You Do That on Purpose? [and so on, and so forth]. Good stuff, right?

With so much attention placed on the idea of OUR purpose, one could barely justify asking, *“What does the Bible say about our life purpose?”* However, just for the sake of curiosity and the intentional and relentless pursuit of eternally divine truth - let’s ask anyway.

“What does the Bible say about discovering or finding our purpose?”

Most would be shocked by the obvious contrasts between the two intended meanings: the Bible and Pop-Culture Evangelicalism. The radical selflessness embedded in the biblical framework for finding one’s purpose is painfully apparent and distinct from the more self-centric priorities of present-day cultural Christianity. The two are so philosophically different that present-day interpretations for finding one’s purpose might actually lead one to believe that our sole purpose is intended towards tending to oneself.

Nonetheless, let’s begin our dig for finding purpose in the most logical place - The Old Testament.

Why, you ask?

Well, simply put, the Old Testament gives us a genesis (a place of origin) and a creative, meaningful foundation for discovering the eternal foundations that reveal and build upon God's truth.

Proverbs 19:20-21 ESV

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*”

Proverbs 16:9 CJB

“A person may plan his path, but ADONAI directs His steps.”

Isaiah 14:24-27 ESV

“The LORD of hosts has sworn: *“As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand, that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder.”* This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. *For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”*

Isaiah 46:9-11 ESV

“...remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”

The revealed truth regarding purpose can only be found in one place - *in Him, for Him, not in me, for me*. So my purpose is His purpose, not mine; my purpose is Him, not me.

John 15:5-8 ESV

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this, my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”

If we allow for it, each year, the Lenten season gives us an opportunity as good as any to align, or realign if you will, with the biblical truths regarding human purpose and ultimate meaning. It is worth reflecting for a moment on the word used to describe “purpose” in this verse. The Greek words for purpose is **skopos** or **boulema**. This refers to a goal, aim, or intended

target; it also means a settled intention, plan, or deliberate thought. Paul uses the word purpose in a very special sense to describe God's fundamental decision to bring about the plan of salvation. It is God's intended purpose entirely, initiated by His will and decision, executed by His sovereign control according to His ultimate determination. His purpose for us is found and fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah. It is He who has included us, not simply us who have included Him. God's purpose is not subject to any human interference, condition, or requirement.

We are the beneficiaries of God's purpose. It's not about us at all, not even in the process of working out the consequences of His plan. God invites us to follow along, not lead the way. Please hold on for a moment - this will challenge your presupposed and predetermined thinking. He does not ask us to give Him a helping hand. He does not ask for our help. He asks us to seek Him, to serve Him, to love Him, to worship Him, praise Him, to prepare for Him, and to proclaim and declare Him. He does not ask me to help Him. You are probably thinking that if I do all of those things, it will ultimately help Him. No, it will help me. It will help me to become more like Him, thereby fulfilling His purposes for me - in me.

There is an incredible freedom hidden in this thought. It's so easy to start living the Christian way of life as though God's purposes depend on our actions. We know that we can do nothing to save ourselves, but once we are forgiven, we easily slip back into that self-righteous mentality, convincing ourselves that we must hold up our end if God is going to manage not only this life, but also the well-being of the entire universe and all that is in it. We start to think that we are essential to His plans. We

discover once again just how self-focused and self-fulfilling we truly are. This, by the way, usually happens all at the same time we are showing ourselves and those around us just how deeply devoted we are to Him.

It's not about us, not even after we get on the train. The course of life is not set to steer us where we think we should go. The results of life are not about our happiness, success, or well-being. I'm sorry, in the biblical context, Aristotle's concept of *eudaimonia* was not correct.

Our happiness is the meaning and purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.

...Aristotle

Just look at God's history with Man. Nothing is guaranteed in this world. The power of purpose is not about how you will achieve your goals – even if they are spiritually correct ones. *Ma'an - Purpose* is the summary word of what God is doing!

If each day you decide to **align** your life with God's purposes (Christ Jesus the Messiah), don't be shocked or frustrated when you quickly discover you seem to have no idea where you're headed. At this point, do not panic or become anxious. Remember, it is not your purpose for yourself that you seek - it is His, it is Him! Do not be distracted or deceived by the false narrative that you and God are equal partners in a transaction or business deal. You and I are here to follow - for Him to complete His

purpose in us. As we do, He is faithfully fulfilling His promises in us. He is purpose. Seek Him, find purpose. That's all. **Jesus Messiah - Purpose.**

3.22.26

Jesus Messiah: Presence - Pa'ne

...et attah pa-ne so'ba si'mahot [[את אתה פנה שבע שמחות]]

Psalm 16:11 CJB

“You make me know the path of life; in your presence is unbounded joy, in your right hand eternal delight.”

Although David declared;

Psalm 22:16-18 ESV

“For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

He did not understand the depth and distance of those words when he uttered them. And yet, even then, the words would stand as a type and shadow of the Messianic presence and glory of God Almighty that was to come. The Messiah had not been revealed or fulfilled, yet His presence remains.

As a true worshipper and a man after God's own heart, the Psalmist carried within him a longing to entertain and abide in the presence and glory of the Almighty - the Most High God. David understood that, which we may have either forgotten or perhaps have never experienced. There is nothing like being in the presence of God.

Psalm 42:1-2 ESV

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”

Psalms 84 ESV

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God

is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!”

With the passing of King David and then his son Solomon, the kings and leaders to follow led the people away from the presence and Glory of God. Unlike the many times before, this time God scattered them and gave them over to captivity far from His presence. However, God, in His mercy and through the Word of His eternal covenant with their fathers, determined to redeem His chosen people. A new covenant would be revealed and fulfilled in the Messiah (anointed one: the suffering servant and shepherd king). One by one, the ancient prophets under the power and word of the Spirit of God began to prophesy of this anointed One, the Messiah to come. The presence and glory of God would be returned and restored to the people as Immanuel - God with us. In Jesus the Messiah, everyone (not just the Jew) who believes in Him can come into the presence of God.

Today, Jesus, the Messiah (Savior and Anointed One), has come, and He is the access and the living Word and Presence of God the Father. He embodies the fullness of God's presence and glory. Jesus the Messiah is not only a righteous Presence, but He is now and forevermore our dwelling place - we abide in Him, and He abides in us.

Jesus is the Righteous and Holy one - He is the Good Shepherd - He is the Suffering Servant - He is the Christ - He is the Promised One - He is the Redeemer - He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life - Immanuel “THE”

fullness and glory of God's presence for all mankind. Jesus Messiah: He is our Peace - He is our Purpose - He is the Presence of God.

Conclusions

The apostle Paul prays that Christ will dwell in the hearts of the church at Ephesus through faith. He instructed the church at Corinth to be the temple, the place where His presence is with us.

Ephesians 3:17 ESV

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith— that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Since we know that all believers are God’s temple and His Spirit dwells in us, how do we respond to find ourselves dwelling in His presence? How can we actually be with God, become aware of him, and truly abide in him?

Personally, I am continually learning that I am not only called and drawn by His Spirit into His presence. But also, that there is a reason God continues by His Spirit to pull me into His presence - He desires to be with me. He desires to be with you. In His presence, we are reminded that He loves us. I can’t help but think this is how God wants to be present with us. That is why we arrange our lives to have time with Him, and in Him. To have undistracted, important, precious, and valuable time. We talk with Him, we walk with Him; we sit before Him knowing that there is nothing we could be doing that is more important than what we are doing in that moment. To focus our attention, our heart solely on Him, for Him. So how do we actually do this?

A man named Brother Lawrence, a lay brother at the Carmelite monastery in Paris in the mid-1600s, introduced the spiritual discipline of Practicing

the Presence of God. He worked in the kitchen and sandal repair shop and learned to be in God's presence while doing his work.

Brother Lawrence developed the gift of praying incessantly with God throughout his day, regardless of what he was doing. This produced such a change in him that many people sought him out for spiritual guidance.

After he died, his letters and conversations were compiled into the book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Practically and simply, he explains how to continually walk with God, not from the head but from the heart. After reading the book many times over the years, Brother Lawrence's pursuit and desire to be in the presence of the Lord have become familiar and reassuring, yet they remain very relevant to my life in real time. So, I spent a few moments putting together some thoughts on being present in the presence of our Savior and Lord.

Be Present in His Presence

Choose and memorize a phrase or verse that brings your attention either to Christ or back to Him. Use it when you are floundering or distracted.

Instead of multitasking with podcasts or scrolling through media, pray, give thanks, meditate on scripture, or listen to the audio Bible.

Set a timer on your phone to alert you to stop and pray at regular or suitable intervals.

Intentionally talk to God about your life, your love, your struggles, and your desires during specific daily activities, such as drive time, breaks, walking from the parking lot, working out, or picking up kids.

Write verses on your hand, phone display, or laptop screen; write yourself sticky notes to read or pray regularly.

Create or craft a visual image of yourself in the presence of Jesus. Maybe you see yourself in a familiar place with Him, perhaps at His feet or sitting close to Him. Now talk to Him.

Intrude on your screens with a verse to pop up at a certain time every day.

Associate a routine activity (tooth brushing, bed making, cooking, yard work) with talking to God.

Whenever you are in a place of transition from one task or location to the next, use the time to acknowledge that Christ Jesus is with you. Audibly tell Him how His presence with you in each moment of each day makes you feel and how life is dependent on His presence, purpose, protection, and peace.