

Peace.

As I sat down to think what Peace means to me now that I am a believer and follower of Christ, and what Peace was to me before I had a Faith, Christ in my life, or any prompting, teaching and guidance from the Holy Spirit or fellowship with other believers.

One thing that comes to mind is often hearing people of Christian Faith saying to me early in my walk, **“God will not give you more than you can handle.”** OK, I guess that could be interpreted in numerous ways. But in this case, I think before I had a true Faith and change of heart, or felt a change within, I was Lord and Master of my own life and Destiny. Gradually as I submitted more into the arms of God, I felt my past life and many of my former interests gradually taking a back seat. I let go of things that gave me security and God had to strip me of many meaningless things for me to get a sense of right standing priority. **God First**, all the other things I had been putting before God were just Idols. Money, possession's, people, work etc.

I mean God can give all those things including relationships; He can also take them away or let them be taken to prove a point. Just look at the book of **Job** as a reference point.

I reflect over the last 11 or so years of my life I feel God has always prepared me for the next step or leap of Faith. Sometimes that step requires an initial push to get me from my comfort zone or to transition from one position to the next. I honestly do not think I could have survived some of the experiences I have had in life without knowing and learning more of who God is as a Father, we must trust He knows what is best for us if we willingly submit our Lives to Him. A Father cannot always give us what we want, but when he Loves us, he gives us what we need. I find peace in God's word and when I read about the life of true believers in the bible. I believe that I'm going to a better place when I leave my body and leave this earth. I find peace knowing that Jesus is an atonement for my sin and although I try to live my life in a God honoring and fearing way, I have peace knowing that when I make a mistake, God is Merciful and full of Grace. I have peace that I am not alone, that God knows my character and my quirks.

To wrap this up, I have peace when I feel close to God. When I am distant and not hearing correctly, I tend to be swayed back and forth and then I have no peace and start letting fear, anxiety, sin, and complacency creep in.

God Fearing, what does that mean?

Yeah, I fear God because he always knows best and can end it all within a millisecond, but more importantly I fear being distant from him, not feeling his presence or seeing his love around me in my day-to-day life.

Jesus is the prince of peace and if I want peace in my life amid chaos, then relationship with Jesus is essential. Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace means wholeness. I believe that God wants us as his Church and people to be whole. I think with Christmas coming up it is good to reflect that the Prince of Peace was born into this world as our saviour in a very humble place, a threat to those in positions of worldly power. A beautiful outlaw from the day he was born and worthy of all our praise and unhindered Worship.

Peace to you all

God Bless.