

THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

PEACE: THE ABSENCE OF MENTAL STRESS / ANXIETY

- Ways we pursue peace
 1. Striving for a control that has no problems
 2. Getting away from it all
 3. Escapism: artificially / Ignoring the negatives / Alternative universes
- Jesus' promise of peace (***John 14:27 CSB***)
 1. Biblical peace: tranquility of mind, well-being, a sense of divine favor
 2. The promise is for the same peace that Jesus had
 3. A key phrase is don't let - implies we have to enforce this peace

GIDEON A MAN WITH WRONG THINKING AND NO PEACE (*Judges 6:12-16 NKJV*)

- Gideon thought God was the problem
 1. He saw no evidence of God's goodness
 2. He thought God had abandoned Israel - and given them over to the enemy
- Gideon thought he personally did not have what it took
 1. The message to him from God was that he was mighty
 2. He was much more conscious of his lack of status and ability
- Gideon thought God was against him (***Judges 6:21-24 NKJV***)
 1. He was afraid that God would kill him
 2. He did listen to God
 3. Built an altar to the Lord is Peace (Jehovah Shalom)

THOUGHTS THAT HELP IN THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

- God is my help, not my problem
 1. Don't look around and determine God is not helping
 2. Look for evidence of His presence, not His absence
 3. Best place to solidify God's help is in His word first (***Hebrews 13:5-6 NKJV***)
- With God's help, I have what it takes
 1. Not lack / deficient conscious
 2. I believe I have what it takes to overcome (***1 John 5:4 NKJV***)
- God is for me, not against me
 1. Don't put trust in feelings
 2. Trust what God did in Jesus
 3. I have peace with God (***Romans 5:1 NLT***)