

## Do You Have Peace Like a River?

By Kelly T. Dixon

Scripture: Proverb 16:7

The word peace is a very profound word. It is something our world has been longing for since Cain slew Abel. The word is defined as freedom from disturbance or agitation; calm; repose; a state of quiet or tranquility. The Bible tells us that peace should be sought of God - *“And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace”* (Jeremiah 29:7). It also tells us that peace is bestowed by God *“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”* (Proverb 16:7). Since we long daily for peace for ourselves and our world, why do we not seek it from God so that He may bestow it upon us?

The Lord has revealed to me that the peace I am trying to obtain in my own life can not be obtained because I carry so much guilt of things I have done or not done. I have no problem forgiving someone else for their transgression against me, but many times fall short of forgiving myself. The Lord has shown me the ball and chain that I am carrying behind me that will not allow me to be free within His peace. When we allow Satan to continue to bring up our past and remind us of how we have failed, then we are not allowing God to give us the peace He has promised for us. In John 14:27 Jesus said, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* Jesus is commanding us here to let go of the world and the peace that it offers and freely indulge in His peace that He gives to us. Satan is of the world and the world is of Satan—do not let Satan trouble your heart and frighten you. What a hard lesson to learn—forgive yourself!

Then there is the peace that comes from forgiveness of one another. Christians who trust in God are promised inward, or spiritual peace. We, as children of the God of Peace, are exhorted to be at peace with one another. For Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:9, *“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God”*. So I ask you these questions - Is your unforgiveness of others bringing you peace? Are you being a peacemaker within your own life? Will you be called the child of God? Forgiveness is an event that many Christians struggle with in their walk with Christ. Unforgiveness brings on so many feelings that are not Christ like. When you do not forgive someone for their trespass against you, then you become very bitter toward that person. This bitterness brings on jealousy. This jealousy brings hate. It is a terrible cycle that usually ends with you not liking the person you have become. We are commanded of God to forgive others. Matthew 6:14-15 says, *“For, if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* As Christians we are not given the choice to forgive - we are commanded to forgive. Oh what a hard lesson to learn - but when we grow in the Lord and learn these lessons we will have peace like a river. †