

The Life of Peace

حياة السلام

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.

John 14:27



Not as the World gives...



The Life of Peace

- Peace in Christianity
- Peace and Christian faith
- Experience of peace in the lives of the saints

1. Peace with God

*Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Rom 5:1*

Is Christianity a call to Tribulations and Sorrows?

- "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).
- "But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses..." (2Cor 6:4)
- "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy" (Psalm 126:5)



What's the End Game?

- “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
- ““Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” (Rev 14:13)
- “Blessed are the righteous because through their tears they always see the face of God”. (St. Isaac the Syrian)

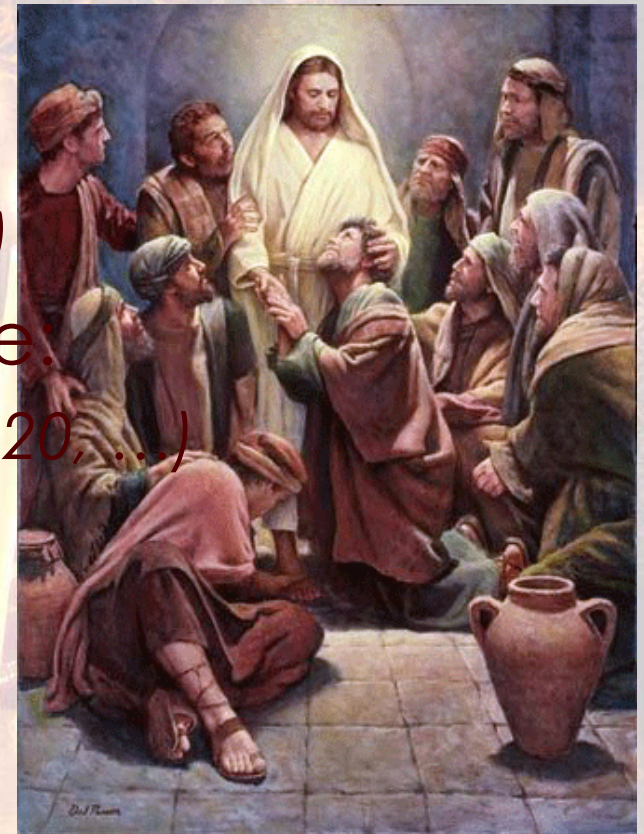
What is Peace?

- Difficult to explain, even for St. Paul:
 - “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Phil 4:7)
- **A state which accompanies the dwelling of God in the heart; a state of joy in the heart.**
- When was peace declared to the world?
- When The Lord came among us:
 - “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
goodwill toward men!”
(Luke 2:14)



Peace and Christian Faith

- Fruit of faith
 - *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Rom 5:1)
- Based on salvation:
 - *"Having made peace through the blood of His cross" (Col 1:20)*
- Christ's greeting and message:
 - *"Peace to you."* (Luke 24, John 20, ...)
 - *But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.'* (Luke 10:5)



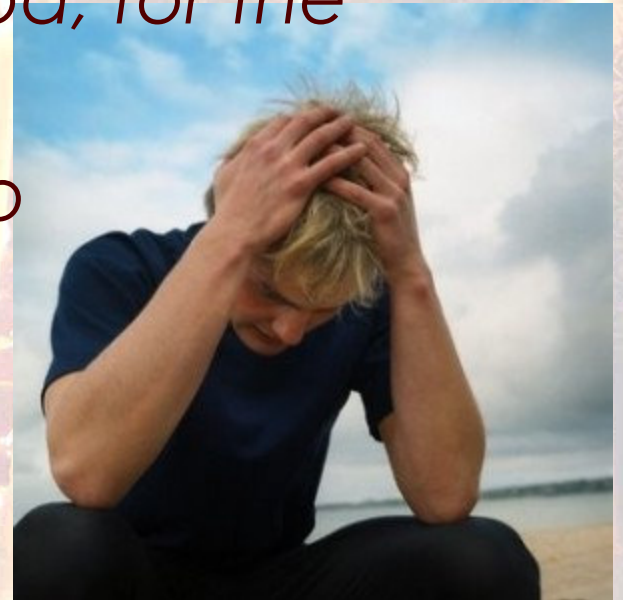
Not Just a Greeting

- Grace and power from the “Prince of Peace”
- *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27).*
- *"The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace" (Ps 29:11).*
- *"I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints..." (Psalm 85:8).*
- *"And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them" (Gal 6:16).*



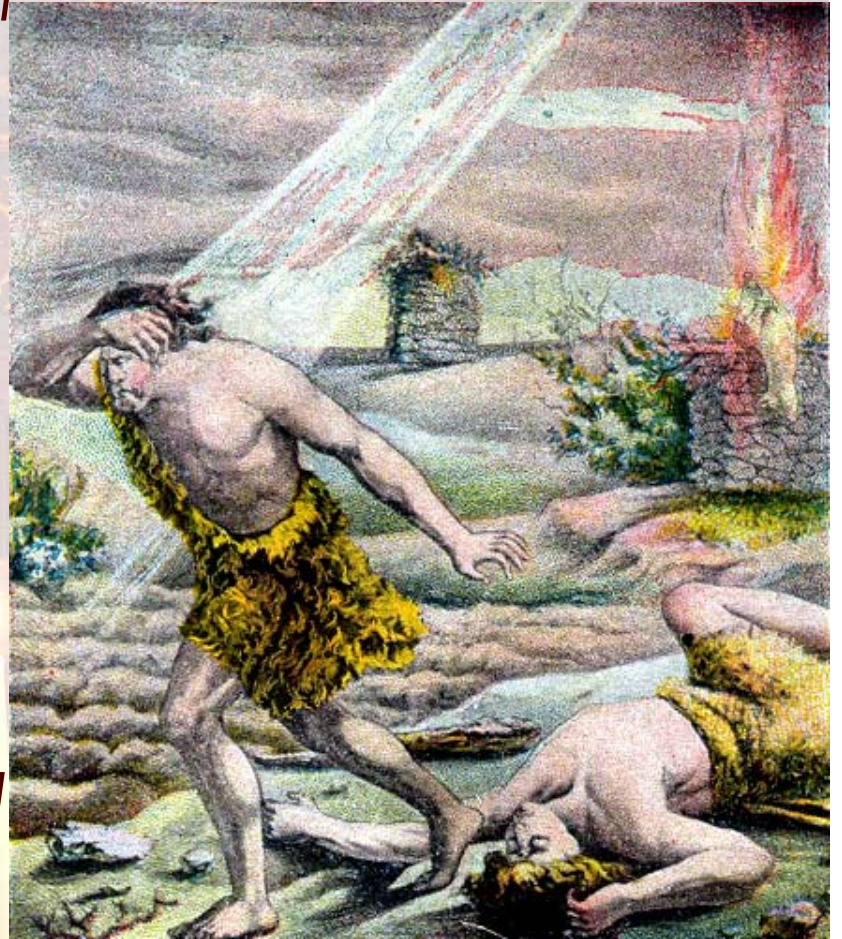
Lack of Peace

- *"If peace is among the fruits of true faith, the loss of peace is a fruit of sin which when it ripens leads man to despair and hopelessness and sometimes even to suicide."
(Bishop Younnis)*
- *There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked" (Isa 57:20, 21).*
- *After David sinned: "There is no health (peace) in my bones because of my sin" (Psa 38:3).*



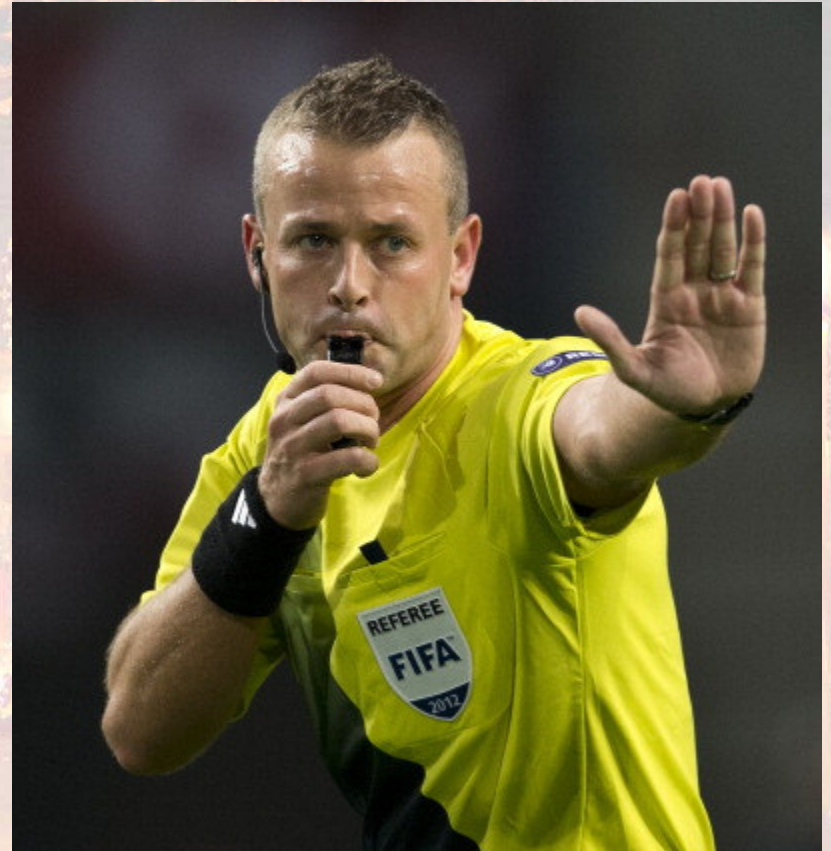
Cain's Despair

- "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me" (Genesis 4:13, 14).



Game Violation

- When a referee blows his whistle, the play stops because an error has occurred and has to be corrected.
- When we lose our inner peace: whistle
- Stop and correct the error which we committed and repent.



Sinner's Peace

- *"There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked" (Isaiah 57:20, 21).*
- But, we see sinner "happy"!
- It's a curtain hiding the soul's bitterness
- Talk to those people, and you'll find misery and bitterness in their heart
- Their shallow tools:
 - Laughter, entertainment, carnal lust, drugs, alcohol,



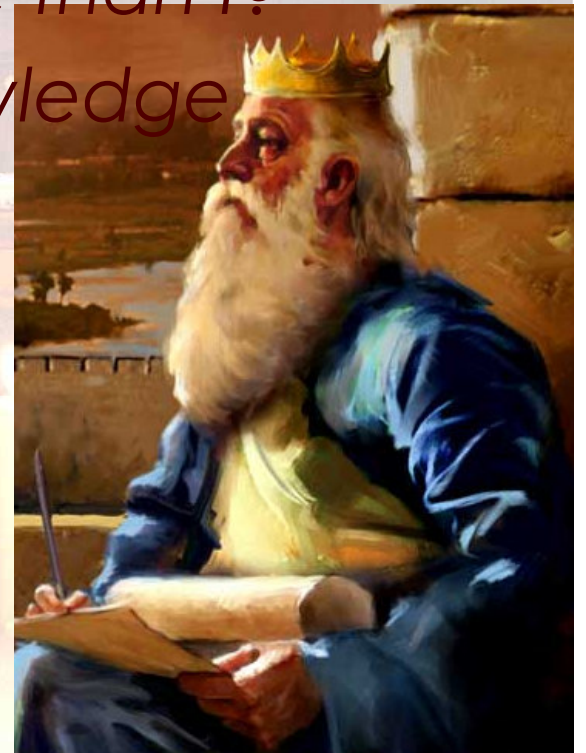
Ecclesiastes 2

- Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind...
- Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; For what can the man do who succeeds the king?...
- Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind...



Ecclesiastes 2

- Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I?
- For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God.



Peace Comes with Inner Purity

- *"The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh and these are contrary to one another" (Galatians 5:17)*
 - A constant inner struggle: lack of peace
- If we reach a degree of purity in which the Spirit takes control and the flesh's lusts cease, we'll regain peace.
 - We become again one identity instead of being two quarrelling ones.
- *"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."*
(Rom 8:6)

Experiences of Peace in the Lives of the Saints

- "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.
- Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident" (Psalm 27:1-3)



Experiences of Peace in the Lives of the Saints



- 21 Then these three men, Sedrach, Misach, and Abdenago, fell bound into the midst of the burning furnace, and walked in the midst of the flame, singing praise to God, and blessing the Lord.
 - [this was BEFORE they were delivered!]
- 25 But the angel of the Lord came down into the oven together with Azarias and his fellows, and smote the flame of the fire out of the oven; 26 And made the midst of the furnace as it had been a moist whistling wind, so that the fire touched them not at all, neither hurt nor troubled them. (Dan 3)

Experiences of Peace in the Lives of the Saints

- ⁹ Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore *him* in pain.”
- ¹⁰ And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep *me* from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.
(1Chr 4)



Experiences of Peace in the Lives of the Saints



- *¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” (Est 4)*
 - *“I know it is not according to the king’s law, but it is according to God’s law; and therefore, whatever comes of it, I will venture, and not count my life dear to me, so that I may serve God, and, if I perish, I perish. I cannot lose my life in a better cause.” (Matthew Henry)*

The Life of Peace

- Peace in Christianity:
 - Peace: A state which accompanies the dwelling of God in the heart; a state of joy in the heart.
- Peace and Christian faith:
 - The Fruit of faith
 - Based on salvation
 - Christ's greeting and message
 - Loss of peace is a fruit of sin
- Experience of peace in the lives of the saints
 - David's psalms
 - The three young men in the fiery furnace
 - Jabez
 - Esther

