

COLOSSIANS by Ps Larry Elliott

Chapter 4b

Sometimes we wish for things to change, but are unwilling to do what it takes to make things better.

We can get upset about our circumstances & want God to change things and change the people around us too.

But Biblically we need to allow Him to change our inner life before we expect real change in our outer life.

Chapter 4 is all about how we live **outwardly**, it's about Relationships, how we treat others and deal with real everyday life...

Colossians 4:5-6 NKJV "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

Downwards / Upwards / Inward / Outward

- Our daily lifestyle impacts US as well as THOSE AROUND US
- And that's why we had to jump back to 3:15

Colossians 3:15-16 NKJV "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

- ✌ The only way we can use every opportunity and share Christ's Love, is to Cultivate the Fruit of PEACE and allow it to RULE in our heart.

PEACE: Harmony / Security/ Prosperity

REMEMBER: PEACE makes and keeps the INNER things of our lives safe and prosperous

(Let's look at PEACE under 3 headings)

i. You will have TROUBLE

Psalms 50:15 NKJV "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.""

ii. The far reaching IMPACT of God's PEACE

Isaiah 26:3-4 NKJV You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength."

- ✌ There are three things REVEALED in this Verse that are very helpful in Cultivating PEACE or allowing God to keep us in perfect PEACE!



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1. His Presence
His PRESENCE changes our Perspective
2. His Purpose
His PURPOSE changes our Priorities
3. His Power
His POWER changes our Possibilities

HIS PRESENCE

True joy and hope comes from the presence of God, This is the source of true peace

His presence will direct us into the WAY OF PEACE, it's there we hear the voice of God with clarity.

The opposite of PEACE IS:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| - Strife | - Unrest | - Discord |
| - Uneasiness | - Noise | - Hatred |
| - Dissatisfaction | - Frustration | - Upset |
| - Disturbance | - Worry | - Distress |

HIS PURPOSE

...Because he TRUSTS in You

So often we are quick to resolve a situation our own way and we don't TRUST God, we just want it sorted and we miss out on the purpose.

😊 Your God Q&A:

- a. Do I know what God wants to accomplish in this?
- b. Will the way I am dealing with this change me for the better or worse?
- c. How will this help the other people involved?
- d. What can I glean from this moment?

Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV ““For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

😊 Seeking God's PURPOSE in a trial or conflict will change or adjust your Priorities.

Jeremiah 29:11-14a NKJV “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity;...”

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Romans 8:28 NKJV “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

- 👊 Like Paul, you might be discouraged by your past, the wrongs you have done and the hurts you have caused others or been through yourself.
- 👊 If you HOLD YOUR PEACE, not only will you find His purpose, God can take the tears of yesterday and transform them into the miracles of tomorrow.

He can restore things to you that you have lost. He can cause all things, even the painful events of your past, to work together for your good.

- True PEACE is what Mankind and the whole world is seeking after.
- YOU and I have it (don't trade it cheaply for anything else)
- PEACE occurs more than 250 times in the Old Testament alone

God delights in the PEACE of His people

PERFECT Peace

Hebrew Shalome Shalome: To be whole or complete, lacking nothing.

Nothing missing; nothing broken (wholeness and total well-being)

HIS POWER

...For in the Lord is everlasting STRENGTH

😊 His Presence changes our Perspective

😊 His purpose will change our Priorities.

But Now God can release His POWER & His POWER will change our possibilities.

JESUS is the Prince of PEACE and He will give us the POWER to overcome in what we are facing or dealing with. (Jesus spoke to the STORM - PEACE, be still!

Mark 10:27 NKJV “But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.””

Every TRIAL or Conflict we face is an OPPORTUNITY to walk in PEACE and make decisions that will cause us to ARISE and give Him GLORY.

Those choices can be influenced by what you going through or who's doing something to you or by what you receive from the Lord as you walk in PEACE.

Philippians 4:9 NKJV “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

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The Bible says that both Abraham and Lot were righteous.

Yet, both men had a different outcome in their outward experience:

1. Abraham was very blessed and continued to prosper and fulfill His Destiny.
2. Lot just lost a lot!

At the beginning both men had large herds and flocks. When their herdsmen started quarreling over space, Abraham took the initiative to walk in peace and make peace. He even let Lot pick the lands that he wanted.

Both men were righteous, but one chose peace over what looked better in the Natural.

Abraham sort God's Presence, Purpose and so experienced His POWER in his circumstances.

Lot picked the well-watered plain of Jordan, where the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were.

But what started out looking much better ended up in Him losing everything outwardly.

(1 Peter says he was still righteous but PEACE wasn't ruling his life)

Genesis 13:6-10 NKJV "Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.

V7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

V8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.

V9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

V10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

👉 Abraham walked in the Way of PEACE, and was blessed in all things!

Genesis 13:14, 17 NKJV "And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

V17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.'"

iii. There are six aspects to Biblical PEACE:

a) It's Spiritual, not a feeling.

Psalms 46:10 NKJV "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

All through the Bible, we are reminded to do this one thing—to "be still and know that I AM God" (**Psalm 46 - Study, Meditate and Confess this week**).

Today, try that. Be still, calm the surrounding noise, and recognize that God is all that He says He is.



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- b) It's a Covenant Promise to God's people.
- c) It's something bestowed upon the Believer. (John 14:27)
Jesus "Bestowed His Peace onto us" it's a GIFT of GRACE"
- d) It's something we need to seek after continually. (Fruit must be cultivated / Armour must work)
- e) Our God is the Lord of Peace.
- f) It should be nurtured and protected in the Church.

Romans 14:17-19 NKJV "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."

PEACE is always supported by Prayer.

Philippians 4:6-9 NKJV "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

V7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

V8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

V9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

PEACE AND PRAYER MUST CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER.

There's this tension, not a problem to be solved but a tension to manage!

Colossians 4:1-4 NKJV "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

[DRC the People]

PRAYER

Continue: to be diligent / to adhere or attend to things, but mainly to be READY!

Earnestly: Give strict attention to something

(if I start losing my PEACE, it means I need to go to prayer or get refilled)

Thanksgiving: Gratitude and Praise

Confession: I am a calm, peaceful person, full of Wisdom and live by Godly principles and I have discernment and exercise foresight and insight in all my decisions.

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