

Wednesday, July 7

Jesus, described in Scripture as the Prince of Peace and present in your life through the Holy Spirit, brings peace that is almost inexplicable. This is not the peace the world offers; this is an inner tranquility that releases you from fear and anxiety and gives you confidence in God's ultimate control no matter what is happening. Teamed with Jesus, you can find deep rest for your soul.

Matthew 11:25-30 and John 14:25-31

- How is the peace Jesus gives different from what the world provides?
- What burden do you need to give to Jesus in order to experience his rest?

Thursday, July 8

Rather than an uncertainty ("I sure hope this will happen"), hope in Christ is the inner certainty that God is at work accomplishing God's will in your life. Even if the circumstances surrounding you are painful or disturbing, your hope as a believer asserts that God is good, powerful, and working on your behalf for the best outcome. Hope is based on the foundation of God's love poured out for you through Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3-9 and Romans 5:1-5

- In what are you to rejoice? Why?
- Write a prayer of praise to God for what is happening in your life because of the hope you have in Jesus.

Friday, July 9

The meaning of salvation is health, wellness, and wholeness. God is not just about saving souls for eternity. God wants the best for believers now and becomes invested in an ongoing process of healing and transformation in each believer's life. Jesus has the power to heal, is willing to respond compassionately to your needs, and will keep touching lives until they are fully restored.

Mark 1:40-45 and 9:22-26

- When the blind man in Mark 8 was not completely healed, what did Jesus do? Why do you think this healing took place in stages?
- What ongoing issue(s) do you need to have Jesus touch again to move you toward complete healing?

Saturday, July 10

Based on his death and resurrection, Jesus has the right to be Lord—the absolute authority over your life. Jesus is not interested in your performance or your living up to external standards. His call is for you to give up seeking approval and accolades from other people and to seek only to do the will of God. Submission and obedience reflect the lifestyle of those who have Jesus as Lord of their lives.

Matthew 7:21-29 and Romans 14:7-9

- According to Jesus, what characterizes the person who can authentically call him Lord?
- How is your foundation in Jesus? Are you like the wise person or the foolish person?
