THE PATH TO PERSONAL PEACE

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3 SOURCES OF TENSION

• When circumstances are: uncontrollable,

• When people are: unchangeable,

• When problems are: unexplainable,

we often lose our peace.

One of the names of God: Jehovah Shalom = "I am the God of Peace"

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (LB) Peace is a gift.

Peace has nothing to do with problem-free living or conflict-free living.

THE PATH TO PERSONAL PEACE

1. ACCEPT WHAT CANNOT BE CHANGED.

Paul: "I have <u>learned to be satisfied</u> with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have <u>learned the secret of being happy</u> at anytime <u>in everything that happens</u> ... I can do all things through Christ, because He gives me strength." Phil 4: 11-13 (NCV)

Book of Job: when God is silent, you need acceptance. "The teacher is always silent when the test is being given.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

2. TRUST IN GOD'S LOVING CARE.

"You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on You because they trust You." Isa. 26:3 (NCV)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Pr. 3:5-6 (NIV)

"Don't worry about anything; instead <u>pray about everything</u>; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, <u>you will experience God's peace</u>, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand."Phil. 4:6-7 (LB)

3. SURRENDER TO GOD'S LOVING CONTROL

"If a person's thinking is controlled by his sinful self, then there is death. But if his thinking is <u>controlled by the Spirit</u>, then there is <u>life and peace</u>."Rom. 8:6 (ICB)

"Those who love your teaching will find true peace, and nothing will defeat them." Ps. 119:165 (NCV)

"Since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have <u>peace with God</u> because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." Rom. 5:1 (NLT)

Evidence of surrendered life: obedience.