

# “Perfect Peace”

## Isaiah 26:3

### INTRO:

Isaiah 26 appears to be a song of triumph that many place in the Millennium because it speaks of a triumphant Jerusalem. This is a city of triumph for God’s people to gather. ***“In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: ‘We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.’”*** (Isaiah 26:1–2) Verse 3 of this song contains an amazing promise which intrigues me and makes me want to adopt it as my promise for the New Year. I commend it to your consideration. ***“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.”***

### I. What Is This “Perfect Peace?”

### II. How Can We Possess It?

#### I. What Is This “Perfect Peace?”

A. What is this peace the LORD promises us? This sentence says literally, ***“The steadfast of mind you will keep in peace, peace, because he trusts in you.”***

The Hebrews used repetition to speak how great something was. Do you remember the account of the battle between the five kings of the South and the four kings of the North? The text mentioned tar pits. The tar pits were literally pit pits. Pit pits were terrible pits. In like manner peace peace is great peace.

B. Let’s talk about what this peace is. First, the Hebrew word translated peace was a very important word. Mouce wrote: ***“Peace is one of the most important words in the OT. In addition to “peace,” this word can be translated as “prosperity, well-being, health, completeness, safety.”*** Peace for us today involves many things. First, it means the absence of war.

1. Before Jesus saved us we were at war with God. **(Colossians 1:21–22)**  
***“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.”***

We like to think we can be neutral toward God. The fact is that our sin makes us God’s enemy. Any good we enjoy from God is because of His common grace. When Jesus died, He paid the price of our treachery toward God. He bore the penalty of sin so that now we can come unto God through Him.

2. So complete is our reconciliation to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that we read in **Romans 8:31-34;**

***“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”***

We need not fear a war with God because the battles are over. We might reply, *“I know that!”* Then why do we fear that God has not forgiven us? Then why are we afraid God is angry with us?

C. We also can rest in His perfect peace because He is always working out His providence in our lives. Even when trouble has come God is there. **(1 Corinthians 10:13)**

***“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”***

How often do we remember that nothing can come our way that we and the Lord cannot handle.

D. Finally, we can abide in this peace because He rules in our hearts and where Christ rules peace exists. **(Colossians 3:15)**

***“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”***

Letting Christ’s peace call the shots is to let Christ have His way in our hearts and life.

## **II. How Can We Possess It?**

A. Now we know a little about God’s Peace. How can we have this peace in our lives? Our text says again; **(Isaiah 26:3)**

***“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.”***

What Does it mean to be steadfast on Him?

1. The Hebrew verb means *to be stayed, sustain or uphold*. There seems to be a relationship with **Psalm 112:7-8** here.

***“He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.”***

2. The first verb in verse 7 is to establish and make firm. The second verb in verse 8 speaks of God doing this for the person. It means to be sustained, held up or supported. We can only be steadfast because God is working together with us to be steadfast.

B. We can be kept in perfect peace because our hearts are kept, sustained, and kept upon Him. That is because we trust in Him. This is not a work or a worked up faith. This is a choice we make in the roads of life. Two verses speak to this process.

1. In **Mark 9:24** the father pleaded with Jesus to heal his son. The Lord Jesus told him all things were possible to him who believed. The man responded in verse 24.

***“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’”***

The man wanted to believe, yet he realized the difficulty of putting everything on Jesus. So, he pleaded for help for his unbelief. Do we ever do this? Are we willing to come to our God and say, *“Lord, I believe. Help me with my unbelief?”*

2. Do you remember David in **Psalm 56:3**? This was his resolve in the times when he did not understand what God was doing. This is what he did when fear and unbelief stole into his life.

***“Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.” (Psalm 56:3)***

The secret of the steadfast heart is its commitment to trust God when there is nowhere else to turn.

Now what are we to do with this truth? Isaiah helps us out with the next verse to help us persuade our hearts to trust. **(Isaiah 26:3–4)**

***“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.”***