

I pray these truths will encourage and help you and your families seek and serve the kingdom of God.

Family Series (Richardson Baptist: Message 3 of 7)

"Recognizing God's Whistleblower... Peace" (Colossians 3)

His Presence... really does make an everlasting difference today, tomorrow and forever.

By nature we're all looking for a Shortcuts and substitutes... we rarely ever want to pay the full price for a thing. We carry that over

into our walk with Jesus...  
this is why so much is  
written in the word to direct  
and guide us.

We, more than we care to  
acknowledge, get out of  
order and operate in the  
flesh, so the Lord loves us  
enough to correct us and  
get our aim back on target.  
And sometimes it's as  
simple as having an  
unsettled spirit over a  
thing... or a deflated spirit  
that lacks peace and  
assurance. When we take  
our eye off of Him, He gives  
us those uneasy and  
disturbed spirits rather than  
His perfect peace, simply to  
reveal we're putting our

focus on the wrong things, and taken our eyes off of Him. He loves us more than we can fathom and has the best plans for us... that He can't and will not let us run off on our own agendas, He must reign in and over us. (Hebrews 12:5-10 ; Isaiah 26:3)

We want you to know, even though we don't personally know you, we will be praying for you. Philippians 1:9-11 is what we'll be praying specifically. And in return we ask that you pray the same things for us. We long to know, embrace and walk in God's excellent will for our lives. And one of the things

that is evident in His will is perfect peace... which is given to those who have their eyes and faith fixed upon the Lord. God's whistleblower (Peace) does its job when we're unsettled and disturbed in our spirits, as a believer, it's a direct result of God's tender chastening upon our lives. He loves us enough to graciously remove His peace from our lives when we've taken our eyes off of Him, and allowing the circumstances of life to dictate and govern our actions. Yet, when we entrust ourselves to Him and His design, He grants us the confidence and

contentment we need to walk in His rich and abundant peace. And one of the most frustrating places a believer can find themselves in---is when they start seeking God's will but fail to seek Him first. His principle of priority is always, and always will be, seek first the King and His righteous reign over our lives and all other things fall in their proper place. I know you already know this... but it's so easy to get distract and mislay these things and forget where [and when] we left them.

Submission is a beautiful thing... all things created are

assigned a mission. And therefore under an assignment. That's why the bible speaks of us all submitting to one another. Because each believer has been given an assignment and given the authority for that assignment by God and therefore, we come under the authority of God when we work with His design. And God's design and order has always been based on assignments or missions the we come under. And part of that is the role of a husband and wife. Both are in sub[under]mission[assignment] to the Lord. And it's a beautiful thing when done God's way. The sad thing is

that you have been given a distorted view of this design. Fathers have been given the divine assignment to protect and provide for their wives and daughters. [Not all submit to this and therefore corrupt and confuse the thinking of those they were given to love and lead.] This is illustrated in Numbers 30 better than almost in any place... the only person who has the authority to overrule a vow is a husband and a father to daughters. The picture is that God demonstrate His great love and care for women and in response to His creative order, always assigns a protector and provider over

her. Even the Newer Testaments teaches this with widows... they are to come under the provisional protection of the leadership of the church, if they don't have family that can care for her. Because women and men are different by design. Women are stronger in some areas than men but for the most part they are the weaker vessel... and they were created as such, for a different and unique role in the kingdom and society than that of men. Our culture, because of its fallen nature, resists God's purpose and cannot be a means to interpret or define truth. Truth, that is God's truth, is



the tool we use to validate what is true and false. God's word needs nothing to validate it, yet it should be used to validate everything about ourselves and the world we live in. And a marriage is to be an image (and earthly illustration with heavenly meaning) of our relationship to Christ.

Women, by design, are usually stronger nurturers and more sacrificial than... but both, men and women, are of equal value and have equal access to God, but they do not possess equal authority. Authority comes with the assignment and it's not based upon our value,

as much as it does upon our missions. God may give you the authority or power to remain single... yet never the authority to remain independent. Meaning, if He has called you to be single and on mission for Him, He has assigned a team of leaders and a congregation to cover and protect you, that He's also called you to be submissive to. He has no renegades... and if He [BRINGS] a man to you (that's how He works) you both will be under a group of believers for their love and protection. All the language of the Bible speaks of a man who seeks, finds and leaves his family when He finds

favor and a good thing in a wife. Fathers can leave things to their children but a prudent wife is FROM God. Never do we find in the Scriptures that women are to be looking for a man... it's always a man is the one who finds a wife. (Proverbs 18:22 & 19:14 & Ephesians 5:22-31)

Think about it in your own journey... have you had God's whistleblower blowing the whistle in your life? Yet you didn't recognize it or what was happening in your spirit. If you'll journey with me a touch farther I think I can help you.

PEACE..one of my favorite subjects and one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture is Isaiah 26:3...

"Thou will keep him (me) in perfect peace, whose (when) mind is stayed on Thee, because he (I) trust in Thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Notice: This is not what we do but what the Father does when we simply TRUST Him. He keeps us in perfect peace when we trust Him. We don't achieve the peace but He gives us the peace when we take Him at his word... He is the peace GIVER and KEEPER.

Faith, that is the result of God's grace, positions us UNDER the FLOW of His grace that it can OVERFLOW into His righteousness. How can I know when I'm trusting Him? When my mind is fixed upon Him, and my heart is under the flow of His word, I have peace knowing I'm resting in Him more than relying upon myself.

In Isaiah 32:17 God helps understand how this happens. Righteousness has one "quest or work" and the "quality or effect" of its divine work will produce its AIM in the lives of those who take God at His word. He

does this by creating a confident and steadfast spirit in us when we trust Him. Listen to me... like peace, righteousness is not something we do, it's Someone we believe and something He works in us.

Here it is, when we TRUST the Lord, He counts our trust in Him and His word as righteousness. And when trust Him, He imputes His righteousness to us... it, His imputed righteousness, goes to WORK in us to produce God's peace in us. How does His righteousness do this? It SERVES us and supplies to us a quiet (undisturbed spirit) and

steadfast confidence in following God's faithfulness and trustworthy word.

What's the result? His grace gift of peace. Thanks be unto God!

"Great peace have those who love Your word, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:165).

Whereas fear and fretting is just the opposite. Fear is the NATURAL response of the flesh, but peace is the SUPERNATURAL product of imputed righteousness, which is the fruit of grace rooted faith. Fear is the response of what the flesh sees and frets over, and

faith is the SUPERNATURAL response to what we can't see naturally, but can supernaturally see what God sees, therefore, we are convinced and persuaded to take possession of what He has shown us.

Let's dissect this biblically: follow with me and it will help you understand this illustrated flow chart and why or why not you're experiencing the peace of God.

"And the WORK of righteousness shall be PEACE; and the EFFECT of righteousness quietness and assurance



forever" (Isaiah 32:17).

PEACE is the product of righteousness, and righteousness is the product of faith and faith is the product of grace.

Righteousness is imputed to an individual when he, by faith, takes God at His word. Righteousness then goes to "work," as it's "chief aim," to produce peace in the life of the those who trust God and His commitment to them.

And seeing that its AIM or QUEST is to produce peace, righteousness starts to "serve" or "effect" the man or woman of faith to bring

them to a place that they have "a settled & steadfast confidence" as they trust the word God has delivered to them. The words "quietness" and "assurance" and "forever" what do they mean? They speak of a QUALITY of service that has an aim to produce a desired effect.

"Forever" speaks... of the biblical reality that this is how righteousness will work in all generations. It's not saying that once you have this settled steadfast confidence you will have it forever. It's saying that righteousness works like this forever. Therefore

PEACE will continually be dependent upon trusting the Lord as Isaiah 26:3 teaches. Our minds are stayed upon the Lord when we trust Him, and as we trust Him... He, the peace Giver and Keeper, keeps us in perfect peace because He imputes righteousness unto us.

"Quietness" speaks of someone who is the opposite of being unsettled or disturbed from a specific objective or course, and therefore, it speaks of someone that is settled and not moved off course.

"Assurance" speaks of someone who is secure and

confident. The idea is that of someone holding steadfast and not wavering in confidence and hope.

A settled and steadfast confidence is the quality of service that righteousness provides that it can produce peace in the hearts and minds of those who trust the Lord. This is all accomplished, regardless of the difficulty of their course (mission), surroundings (culture) or circumstances (conditions) they may face. Why? Their eye is fixed on Jesus so they can run the race that He sets before them.

This is what righteousness produces and not the righteous. Glory... they simply trust obey!

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the RACE that is set before us, looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2)

The "JOY" and the "RACE" are speaking of the course or the will of God for our

lives. The joy set before Jesus was "His race" or "His course" or "the will of the Father" designed specifically for Him. Your race is the joy that will be set before you or as Paul called it... "that I may finish my course" (Acts 20:24) and (2 Tim. 4:7). When we trust and obey...God sees to it that we are settled and steadfast with a confidence that can't be shaken, yep, we'll have a perfect peace on the course He's assigned for us to run.

The challenge goes back to the seeking... too often, in our zeal to KNOW God's will, we can find ourselves

seeking His will but neglect to seek Him. The problem with this is the fact that His will can't be FULLY known or understood or enjoyed WITHOUT His presence and peace. And the INDICATOR we've taken our eyes off of Him and placed them upon ANYTHING else, INCLUDING even His will, will always be an unsettled and frustrated spirit. Why? God chastens those that He loves.

This unsettled spirit is actually a gift... a gift of His unfailing love that reveals we've taken our eyes off of Jesus. And He uses the absence of His peace to let

us know that the eyes of our faith is not fixed on Him and we're drifting off the race He's given us to run (Hebrews 12:1-5 ; Isaiah 26:3 ; Colossians 3:15).

Peace, the very opposite of an unsettle and frustrated spirit, is what God described as a "whistleblower" or referee/arbitrator that He's assigned to RULE in our hearts. And, as with an official at a basketball game, peace "blows the whistle" on our lives when we've "broken" faith with the Lord. Broken faith is when we're putting something else, even something as good as God's



will, before seeking Him first, and other things has our attention and not the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6 ; Matthew 6:33 ; Isaiah 26:3).

I imagine you have experienced this before... we all have. I've been there, too, and have counseled many church leaders and servants who found themselves frustrated and unsettled, fretting about where they were, yet they wanted to know, more than anything, God's will for their lives. But the Lord has made it so... that when we seek Him, first, He Shepherds and feeds and leads us to the assignments He's

authorized us to walk in,  
while giving us His peace to  
embrace and enjoy Him, His  
presence, favor and purpose  
throughout the journey.

Running our assignment  
(the race that is set before  
us) calls for us to LOOK unto  
Jesus.

Blessings... keep you eyes  
on Jesus and thank Him for  
His whistleblower.