

# IMPACT

**I** Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Judges 6:22-24 “Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. so Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.’ Then the LORD said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’ So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it *The-LORD-Is-Peace.*”

**Quote:** “If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.” Thomas Watson

**G**ideon lived during a time of intense persecution and poverty that was brought about when God delivered Israel into the hands of their enemies, as a result of their evil practices. They desperately cried out to the LORD, and He sent them a prophet who rebuked their sinfulness and reminded them of God’s faithfulness when He delivered them from the Egyptians.

The Bible then records that the Angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor.” Gideon then replies, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’” Like Moses prior to leading Israel from Egypt, Gideon then gave excuses as to why he could not do as he was commanded. In the dialogue that followed, Gideon came to realize that the One Who stood before him was no mere man; it was the Angel of the LORD. He then built an altar that he called “*The LORD Is Peace.*”

The fascinating history of how God delivered Israel in a way that brought glory to Himself then unfolds. Gideon received the peace of God when he recognized the presence of God, relied upon the power of God and rested in the promise of God. “The LORD said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the

Midianites as one man.” In our day, every individual must realize that *no one can have the peace of God the Father without the presence of God the Holy Spirit that comes through saving faith in God the Son.* Christ is the Prince of Peace!<sup>1</sup> “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”<sup>2</sup>

Isaiah said, “The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.’ ‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”<sup>3</sup> David knew that wickedness quenches the peace of God. He prayed, “Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

**Jehovah-Shalom, The LORD is Peace**

Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”<sup>4</sup> Although Christians cannot lose peace with God, they will lose the peace of God by offending the Comforter. Restored peace comes through confessing and forsaking sin. The Bible says, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”<sup>5</sup>

The prospect of bowing at any minute before the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS should drive us to seek assurance that we have peace with God and that we enjoy the peace of God. Until Christ comes for His own, we are to heed Paul’s admonition to “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and *the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*”<sup>6</sup>

1 Isa.9:6 2 Rom.5:1-2 3 57:20-21 4 Psa.51:8-12 5 James 4:8 6 Phil.4:4-8