



Hello From the Otherside - The Pathway of Peace, Part 1

INTRODUCTION

There is another side to dysfunction, disbelief or disappointment. There is another side to heartbreak and despair. There is another side to anxiety, depression and loneliness. The Lord has a pathway of peace designed for His children.

WORD

A. The Path of the Righteous

1. *"The way (path) of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day."* Proverbs 4:18 NLT
 - a. If you have been in despair, know that the Lord has another side for you.
 - b. Know that hope is lost - God is just getting started.
 - c. You may have been seeing some glimmer of light but our God is about to open up the heavens and flood your pathway with His Light!
 - d. When that happens nothing will be able to stop you!
 - e. You are not at the end unless you want to be!
 - f. The dawn is just the beginning of a brand new day - the Lord's fullness is about to shine BRIGHT on your life.
 - g. The Amplified version: "But the path of the just is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until [it reaches its full strength and glory in} the perfect day.
 - h. The Lord has got a FULL strength for you and glory on the other side.

2. The Presence of Peace

- a. One of the reasons that the path of the righteous shines bright is because the lord's Peace is Present there.
- b. Unfortunately sometimes we can't see that peace because of obstacles that get in the way.

B. Today is Your Day!!

1. *The Bible says it like this in Luke 19:42 - "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."*
 - a. Context of his scripture: Jesus is approaching the city of Jerusalem and He is moved to tears and sorrowful because they were about to miss their day of VISITATION.
 - b. The Lord was there to save them, to deliver them and set them FREE but they could not receive Him.

- c. They could not receive the Prince of Peace because **they only saw Him as a Carpenter's son - The truth was hidden from their eyes.**
- d. The day that we are living in, this is Our Day! We are equipped for it, we are made for the day we are living in!

C. Three things that hide Peace from our eyes:

1. Anxiety

- a. In the biblical context, the word **anxious** means "to be troubled with cares".
- b. The Dictionary defines **anxiety** as: "To be full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune."
- c. People can feel anxious during stressful times in their lives such as moving to a new city, starting a new school or new job, getting married, going to visit the doctor or visiting the dentist.
- d. Once the stressful event is over, those anxious feelings usually disappear and that is considered to be normal anxiety.
- e. Some people actually struggle with an anxiety disorder: they are incapacitated by anxiety, even in the absence of any stressful life events.
- f. They feel as though they have no control over their anxiety.
- g. Symptoms of Anxiety Disorder - Excessive Worry, Sleep Disturbances, Panic Attacks, Nausea and Vomiting, Muscle Tension, Flashbacks or PTSD, Social Anxieties and Stage Fright
- h. *1 Peter 5:6-7 NLT So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.*
- i. *Philippians 4: 6-7 "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and your minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*
- j. **Casting your cares on the One who takes care of you, is an antidote to anxiety.**

2. Depression

- a. Depression Defined: Sadness, gloom, dejection (that does not go away).
- b. To Depress something means to lower in force, vigor, activity, etc.; weaken; make dull.
- c. The goal of depression is to weaken you, rob you of your energy and prevent you from living the life of peace that God has for you.
- d. In Psychiatry - a condition of general emotional dejection and withdrawal; sadness greater and more prolonged than that warranted by any objective reason.
- e. *Luke 4:18 NLT "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,"*

- f. GOD HAS BETTER FOR YOU - THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE - cast out depression and every ungodly belief.

3. Loneliness

- a. Loneliness Defined, 1) Sadness because one has no friends or company; 2) The fact of being without companions, solitude. 3) The quality of being unfrequented and remote; isolation.
- b. *Proverbs 18: 24 NKJV "A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother."*
- c. Some of us experience loneliness because we are not friendly.
- d. Some are lonely because they are unable to extend themselves to their loved ones.
- e. Some may be experiencing loneliness because God is challenging them to form a new friend set.
- f. **Know this - YOU ARE NEVER ALONE. The Lord has another side for you!**
- g. Duet. 31: 6 - He has promised to never leave nor forsake you.

D. ELIJAH'S STORY - He walked through anxiety, depression and loneliness

- 1. *"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" 1 Kings 19: 1-4 NKJV*
 - a. Elijah experienced mental distress and great fear when Jezebel threatened to kill him - anxiety
 - b. He left his servant and put himself into isolation - loneliness
 - c. He showed signs of weariness and asked God to take his life - depression
- 2. *1 Kings 19: 9-18*
 - a. Elijah left the place where the Lord sent him. God asked him, "What are you doing here?"
 - b. Elijah believed lies and acted upon them (Ungodly Belief System)
 - i. He believed that the people of Israel wanted to kill him - the truth is, the people had already turned back to the Lord (1 Kings 18). Only Ahab and Jezebel desired to kill him.
 - ii. He believed that he was the only one left to serve the Lord - the Lord told Elijah that he had reserved 7000 who had not bowed to Baal.
 - c. **God told Elijah to go back.** He linked Him with other mighty men of God to overthrow Ahab and Jezebel.

E. ACTION STEPS TO PEACE

1. Believe God's truth over every lie
2. Take up your authority as a child of God
3. Stay in your place or return to your place - the Path that God has for you!