

[Faith, Hope & Love\\_Part18](#)

Last week we focused on the fact that Jesus is **Jehovah Sabaoth**, the Lord of heaven's armies, and that both the "good" angels and the "bad" angels—Satan and the demons—work for the Lord and do only what He allows and directs them to do. It was also fascinating to understand that this name—**Jehovah Sabaoth**—is used more than any other compound name in the Bible. This gives us insight into the fact that God employs His angels to carry out His work in this world and that work touches every aspect of human life without exception. And since we know that He employs myriads and myriads of angels, we can be sure that they are always present in our lives working on behalf of those who have been set aside by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** for salvation.

For example, I love the story of Elisha and his servant in **2 Kings 6:8-23**. The King of Aram was at war with Israel and Elisha the prophet kept telling the King of Israel the King of Aram's battle plans. So the King of Aram purposed to kill Elisha. He found Elisha camped outside of a certain town and surrounded that town with his great army. In the morning, Elisha's servant woke up and saw the army, with horses and chariots surrounding the city, and he started to freak out until Elisha prayed that his eyes would be open to see what Elisha could see. When his eyes were open to the spiritual realm, he saw that they were surrounded by an even greater army of angels described as horses and chariots of fire. You see, there was never anything to really worry about, God had it covered. **Yahweh** is always in control of all things all the time. In this we can rest. And His servants, the angels, are always working for Him on our behalf.

We also learned that Jesus presides over the great heavenly counsel (also called

the Courtroom or the Great Assembly) where decisions are made as to what the angels can or cannot do in effecting God's plan for humanity. It is in this assembly that Satan brings accusation against the people of God, which is why he is known as the accuser of the brethren who accuses us before God day and night (**Revelation 12:10**). The court makes judgments upon those accusations and as a result God releases the angels and the demons to act for and against mankind. But we also learned that God always has a plan. So even if He allows demons to come after a person, God's larger plan involves using that encounter for His own purposes in that person's life. After all, they are all ministering servants and they are all always ministering on the behalf of the chosen. And the Lord's plan is always, always, always for the ultimate benefit of His loved ones as everything He does and permits is an expression of His great love for us.

And since we are studying faith, we must be willing to bet our lives on this name. **Jehovah Sabaoth** is a name of great comfort and assurance. **Jehovah**, the Lord, is in control of everything seen and unseen all the time. And all the hosts of heaven work for Him and on our behalf. Understand this amazing truth and rest in it. We don't ever have to fear the enemy; we must fear God and God alone. This brings us to our next name.

15. **Yahweh Shalom**—the Lord is Peace. This name first appears in **Judges 6** when Gideon had an encounter with the Angel of the Lord (which as we have learned is the form in which Jesus appeared to men and women in the Old Testament). Due to its sin and corruption, Israel has been subjected by the hand of the Lord to the nation of Midian for seven years. When the people of Israel realized the worthlessness of the idols they had been worshiping realizing they would bring

them no help, they finally cried out to God and He arranged for a deliverer. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and instructed him to go and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. In reading about this interaction, it is pretty clear that Gideon did not know to whom he was talking until he brought out some meat, bread, and broth and offered it to the Angel of the Lord and the Angel of the Lord touched it with His staff and fire jumped up from the rock and consumed the meal and then the Angel of the Lord immediately disappeared. Gideon suddenly understood that he was not just talking to any man or to any ordinary angel, but he was talking to the Lord. This scared him to death and he immediately cried out:

***Judges 6:22-24***

..."Oh, Sovereign Lord, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" "It is all right," the Lord replied. "Do not be afraid. You will not die." And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the Lord is peace").

With that as our introduction, let's think about the idea of "peace" and derive its meaning in the context of this situation where we first are introduced to this name. In our culture, we tend to think of peace first and foremost as a feeling of tranquility and calmness where we are not in any sort of immediate conflict, stress, or duress; and it is this feeling that people search the world over to find. It's as if people find these temporary moments where they "feel" at peace and one with the world around them, but it disappears as quickly as it came and leaves them wanting more

and more. But no matter what they do, they cannot seem to find peace in any sustained experience. Even within Christianity, believers are always searching for a feeling as an indication of how they are doing with God. If they experience a feeling of peace they think things are good and everything is ok, but if there is unrest or some other disturbing feeling, they think they must have done something wrong and it causes great distress, worry, fear, and anxiety. Biblically, however, peace is not a feeling; peace is a relational reality that is not dependent upon feelings. If our feelings ever catch up to the relational reality, then wonderful; but our feelings do not determine our reality and in truth they are entirely irrelevant. Again, when it comes to the issue of peace, our feelings are entirely irrelevant.

Gideon seemed to rightfully understand that he was a sinful man and that he had no right or ability on his own to stand before the presence of the Angel of the Lord. He knew that God is good, perfect, and holy and man is none of the above. He also seemed to rightfully understand that the wages of his sin was death (**Romans 6:2**); and he obviously believed that if he encountered the living God that it just might push up his appointment with death, so he cried out in fear. But **Yahweh** instantly responded, "Do not be afraid. You will not die." These were powerful words to Gideon's soul. Gideon no doubt deserved to die because of all his transgressions against the Lord; but **Yahweh Shalom**, the Lord who is Peace, declared that Gideon was safe.

The Hebrew word "*Shalom*," which we translate as "peace," derives from a root word "*Shalam*" which means "safe." This is probably the best way for us to understand this name. **Yahweh Shalom** name does not mean that we will always feel safe; in fact, it does not mean that we will feel any given emotion. Rather, it

means that practically, relationally, we are safe with God. Being safe, we don't have to fear the Lord's judgment or wrath for our sin. We don't have to fear the separation or death that is brought about by sin because He has dealt with the inherent conflict caused by sin and the separation that existed between us and God. Therefore, we are always safe all the time regardless of what we deserve.

If you are willing to bet your life on this name, you will find that **Yahweh Shalom** decimates shame, guilt, condemnation, and defeat. Again we are not talking about feelings, we are talking about a relational reality. You may feel shameful, guilty, condemned, and defeated; after all that is what the enemy wants you to feel all the time. But feelings do not matter when it comes to the issue of faith. Faith is not dependent upon feelings; in fact, feelings are entirely irrelevant. When our feelings line up with faith it is a wonderful experience; but more often than not they defy the truth and they stand in opposition to our faith. So it does not matter that you feel shameful, guilty, condemned, or defeated, those are just a feelings; the reality is that if you have been chosen by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** then shame, guilt, condemnation, and defeat is not for you a relational reality! You don't have to worry; do not fear, you are safe!

One of my favorite expressions of this truth comes from **Romans 5:1** which says, "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith (or have been justified by faith), we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." The phrase, "since we have been made right in God's sight," is in the *aorist passive participle*. Thus, if you are chosen of God and have chosen Him in return, being right in God's sight is your day-in-and-day-out reality, from beginning to end (the *aorist* tense); being in the *passive* voice, He does this for you

regardless of your actions; and being a *participle*, He keeps doing it over and over and over again. He never stops making us right with Him. That is why we are safe. It does not matter what we have done, He is always making us right in His sight. How glorious and marvelous is this truth. It makes no sense to our brain nor our emotions, but that is our God. If someone treated us the way we treat God, we would have no patience for them and would treat them awful in return, but our God just loves us so much that He continually makes us right before Him.

In the Greek, this word translated peace, "*eirene*" comes from a primary verb "*eiro*" which means "to join." Follow me on this; because we are continually made right in His sight, we can be joined together with God through what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. And nothing conflicts or interferes with that joining because all that was in the way has been removed; there is nothing that separates us. And being in the *present active indicative*, every moment of our now this is a statement of indisputable fact. The conflict that existed between God and man as a result of our sin has been removed (this is what it means to be justified before Him), and so we have peace as the Spirit binds us together in Christ. Thus, we don't have to fear; all has been remedied, and we are safe all the time.

Now that the first thing Gideon did was build an altar to the Lord and he named it **Yahweh-Shalom** (which means "the Lord is peace"). This, I believe, is something we should do (metaphorically speaking). This altar stood as a constant reminder to Gideon that God had mercy on him and he was safe. This altar reminded Gideon that he did not even have to fear the task which God set before him, no matter how impossible it seemed. **Yahweh** gave Him assurance of victory despite the odds. Some of you need that constant reminder. The enemy has trapped you and bound

you with the hard iron shackles of your feelings of shame, guilt, condemnation, and defeat; and you therefore live as if you are to be ashamed, guilty, condemned, and defeated. As a result of you surrendering to your feelings, your life tragically does not reflect the reality of your relationship. You forget that you are safe. You forget that God is the one who has made you right with Him and continually makes you right over and over and over again. He does not ask you to sacrifice to Him or pay any penance in order to get right with Him; no, in His love He just makes you right. There is nothing that is in the way of you being joined to Him. Just like there is nothing in the way of you fulfilling the tasks, as impossible as they may seem, that He has set aside for you. You just have to be willing to bet your life on His name and He assures you victory despite the odds.

You might be thinking that since those feelings are so powerful and tangible, how could they not be true? After all, shouldn't you feel bad when you sin? Don't we all? Well, I am sure you/we should feel bad, that's fine; but you still have to understand that you are safe and you have peace with God. It is the truth of the Word of God that should drive all your decisions; not your feelings. I am not saying you are not going to feel bad. Your conscience is definitely pricked when you sin (at least it should be, and if it is not then you have a serious issue with sin). But that pang in your conscience should serve as a reminder, *as that altar*, that you are safe. When you feel that pang of your sin, it should be the instant reminder that you are always and continually made right with the Lord. This is going to take some reprogramming of your brain. You have not understood the purpose of that familiar pang in your soul and you have let your feelings jump in with all authority and convince you that you should be ashamed, guilty, condemned, and defeated; and

so you live as such. It is so sad. That pang should be to you a trumpet that declares the power of this truth and cause you to choose once again to humble yourself before God because of how much He loves you.

With that said, please understand that you definitely turn your back on God when you indulge your flesh and love the things that are not of God; and in that place He resists you because He is not going to validate or affirm your flesh in any way, shape, or form (**Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; 1 Peter 5:5**). He is also not going to let you continue to live that way for it harms you and robs you of the abundant life that He desires for you (**John 10:10**). And so, as **Jehovah Sabaoth**, He employs His servants the angles and He takes action to teach you why it is a horrible idea to love this world and the things of this world—the lust of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Those things are not from the Father but are from the word (**1 John 2:16**).

But even in His opposition to your flesh, please understand that relationally you are safe; you have peace with God. The relationship is not at risk, for if you have been chosen by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**, He has given you His Spirit and His Spirit dwells within your *New Creation* and nothing can take His Spirit from you. The Spirit has been given as the Lord's personal promise that you belong to Him and have eternal peace with Him (**Ephesians 1:13-14**). And because the *New Creation* is righteous, holy, and true (**Ephesians 4:24**), it stands separate and untouched by the filth of your *Old Sinful Nature*—your flesh. This is why you are safe and never at risk. The *New Creation* and your *Old Sinful Nature* (the flesh) are two aspects of your spiritual existence that are always in opposition to one another; but they are not one and the same (**Galatians 5:17**). Do not be confused! The separation of the



flesh from our *New Creation* is the reason why we can be confident that we are safe and the relationship is never at risk! This is why we can be assured that we do not have to live in shame, guilt, condemnation, and defeat.

I want you to also understand that this name **Yahweh Shalom** is adopted by all members of the Godhead. With regard to the Father, **Hebrews 13:20-22** says, “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord equip you ...” The Father is the God of peace. With regard to the Son, **Isaiah 9:6-7** speaks of Jesus and says, “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end.” And with regard to the Spirit, **Ephesians 4:3** states that our unity of the Spirit is found in the bond of peace. God is peace (**Romans 15:33; 16:20; 2 Thessalonians 3:16**). That means that all the time no matter what you may have done, you are safe with the Father, you are safe with the Son, and you are safe with the Holy Spirit of God.

You might be remembering that you read somewhere that it is possible to grieve the Holy Spirit. And doesn't that conflict with what I am saying? After all, if He can be grieved, doesn't that potentially damage the relationship if you grieve Him enough? **Ephesians 4:30** says, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” The first thing this passage confirms is that the Spirit is not an “it” or an “essence,” but a person—He is the third person of the Godhead. He has the ability to be grieved so, like all persons, He has emotion. But in the overall context of this passage in **Ephesians 4**, we have to understand that the Spirit is addressing this tug of war and conflict between the Spirit and the flesh.

I am going to add some commentary for clarification as we read this passage.

***Ephesians 4:17-24***

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility [or worthlessness] of their mind [utilizing one's own wisdom], being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God [they do not have the mind of Christ] because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart [this is exactly what happened to the demonic angels as we studied last week; this is why they cannot understand us or the things of the Spirit]; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self [or throw off your Old Sinful Nature], which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self [the New Creation], which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

This passage goes on to speak about the believer who has allowed the flesh to rule their lives which is evidenced by anger, falsehood, laziness, gossip, bitterness, wrath, clamor, malice, and so on. This is in contrast to one who speaks the truth, is tenderhearted, hard-working, and forgiving. Therefore, I think we can understand

this command “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” to mean that if you follow the voice of your *Old Sinful Nature*, by definition, you repress the voice of the Holy Spirit and your body follows suit and the fruit of your life stinks. You literally suppress the Spirit. It’s as if you squeeze Him into the smallest area of your soul and only let Him have access to that reduced territory which quenches His ability to rule, lead, and direct your life; and it quenches your ability to know and enjoy the Spirit of God.

But understand, still the relationship is never at risk. When it says that you were sealed (with the Holy Spirit) for the day of redemption, “sealed” is in the *aorist passive indicative*. Thus, being sealed is our reality, from beginning to end we are ones who are sealed (*aorist* tense); it is God who has done it, so it is not dependent upon whether we do things right or wrong or whether we are good or bad, He has made it to be (*passive* voice); and being in the *indicative*, we know it is an indisputable statement of fact. Yes, you can grieve the Spirit by giving preeminence to the voice of your *Old Sinful Nature*. But you can never change the fact that the Spirit dwells in your *New Creation*; God assures that. The relationship is one of peace because Jesus continually makes you right before Him!

Isaiah speaks of this and it is so powerful. **Isaiah 26:3** says, “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” When I used to read this verse I would get so frustrated because I did not feel this peace and all I wanted was to feel it. It was only going to be real to me if I could feel it. I had become sick of feeling turmoil, worry, stress, and anxiety and I was wondering what I was doing wrong because I did not feel this peace. But once again, this is not talking about a feeling but a relational reality based on what God has done. In fact,

“all who trust” and “whose thoughts are fixed” are both *passive participles*. God does it in our lives and He continues to do it; which is why He can assure us that we always have peace with Him. If you have chosen Jesus for real, then you have been perfectly joined to God and there will never be anything that corrupts or disrupts this joining; it is a perfect connection and He guarantees it.

Do you understand? I hope so, because we have to get over this unreasonable expectation that we have for feeling a certain way and instead make the decision to trust in the relational reality of our peace with God. With that said, I do believe that if we practically choose to trust in the name and continually choose to live by trusting in the name that eventually our feelings will catch up to our choices and they will be in glorious alignment. I have experienced this. But you need to make the choice to bet your life on His name and keep making that choice

In **John 14:27**, in His final words to His disciples, Jesus said, "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." In context, He was addressing the fact that He was going to leave them and go to His Father and He wanted them to know that He was going to send to them the Spirit of God to abide in their souls. That is what He meant when He said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (**John 14:18**). He reinforced this by saying that with regard to the one who loves Him, "My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our abode with him" (**John 14:23**). This peace of mind and heart that allows us not to be troubled or afraid is the assurance that we have been joined together with the Father and the Son and their presence is in us through the person of the Holy Spirit who abides in our *New Creation*. Rest and be strengthened in this truth; you are at peace with God. And

He said it is a peace of mind and heart. Again, if you bet your life on **Yahweh Shalom** and continually stand firm on it, eventually your feelings will catch up to your choices and you will know both peace of mind and heart.

Then in **John 16:33**, Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." If you have not chosen Jesus for real, then I am afraid there is no way to experience this peace. Peace with God is found in Jesus—through what He has done for us. There is no other way to be found right with God. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and He is the only pathway to the Father. This is a practical truth and it is an unbendable relational reality.

The circumstances of your life may totally blow; after all, it is a guarantee that you will experience tribulation and troubles in this life. But He says that you are to take courage because He has overcome the world; therefore, if He has overcome, so can you. Life in this world is not easy and it is filled with all sorts of troubles and failures, but take courage and let the peace of God rule in your mind and heart and you will have victory. Spiritual defeat comes through shame, guilt, condemnation, and a defeatist attitude. But if those are not part of your relational reality, then even when you blow it and sin, you can confidently stand-up and move forward in faith knowing that you have total peace with Christ. In this truth is our victory over this world. **Understand, victory over this world is not about not-sinning** (that won't be our reality until we shed these bodies of flesh, which are by definition corrupted with sin); our victory is about our choosing to live in this peace and not let our sin shackle us in feelings of shame, guilt, condemnation, and defeat.

***Philippians 4:4-7***

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 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 comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Literally in the Greek this says, by not even one thing be anxious or distracted but have God make your request to God (it is in the *present passive imperative*). In your now (*present tense*), you are commanded (*imperative*) to let God make your requests for you (*passive voice*). How amazing is that? Think of what this is saying about being joined with Christ. It speaks of such an oneness of mind, heart, and spirit with the Lord. It speaks of a beautiful submission that is found through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving—not with griping and complaining. It speaks of a confidence that gives us reason to rejoice always. Do you understand how this works? He will make your requests that He has placed in your heart; after all, if you delight yourself in the Lord, He will give you the desires of your heart (***Psalms 37:4***). And ***Romans 8:27*** says that the Spirit intercedes for us and offers up prayers on our behalf in accordance with the will of God. So even in this matter of prayer, He has our back and we are safe. This is why if we approach God in this way, betting our lives on the name **Jehovah Shalom**, confident we have no conflict with Him regardless of our behavior, His peace will guard our heart and our mind which would otherwise stand accused before Him. This relational reality certainly does surpass all comprehension. How can He declare us right with Him when there is

nothing we do that is right? Because He is our lover and He is our God. Rejoice in this relational reality; again, I say rejoice and be thankful for this truth.

And when you learn to rest in this peace, you will find that it is also to be the peace that is experienced with the rest of those who have been chosen by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**. Peace is not just a vertical experience, but it is also to be a horizontal experience with other members of the true body of Christ.

### ***Colossians 3:14-15***

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

The idea is that if the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, we don't have to bring into our relationships our shame, guilt, condemnation, and that defeatist attitude—all which suck the life and joy out of our relationships and infects everyone. You know what I mean; many of you are experiencing that reality right now because you have not bet your lives on the name **Jehovah Shalom**. Above all we are to love; that is a given. But if we don't live in God's peace, there is no way we can love. We become stuck on what we have done or what others have done and we simply don't love. That is why we are called to live in peace. According to ***Ephesians 4:3***, peace is to bind us; it is how we keep the unity of the Spirit. It is the impetus for experiencing God's agape love with one another. Get rid of the shame. Throw it away. Despise the guilt. Laugh at condemnation. And rub Jesus' victory in

the face of defeat. You are called to live in peace and it is time that you choose to live in peace; after all, it is your relational reality.

**Yahweh Shalom.** If you are chosen, the Lord has made peace with you and that is a statement of fact. Choose to adopt this truth as your truth and rest in it. Bet your lives on this name. If you are sick of living in guilt, shame, condemnation, and defeat, then start obsessing on this truth. Gird up your minds for battle with this truth; you will have victory. Erect that altar and let the pang of your sin remind you of the fact that you have peace with God and nothing—not even your sin—can ever disrupt that relational reality. Let it be your motivation for submitting to Him and for loving others.

Let's Pray