

Jesus Has a Name

Episode 25

Call Upon His Name

Yahweh Shalom – Part 1

Once again, as we start this episode, I want to state that our goal in studying the names of God is twofold: 1) to know our King so well that we become fully convinced—based on all the facts—that we would be ridiculous to put our trust in anything or anyone else (especially ourselves); and 2) to be fully convinced that all our decisions, no matter how trivial, must be made based on the reality of the character and nature of our King, which has been revealed by the name.

HIS NAME IS TO BE THE FILTER THROUGH WHICH WE PASS ALL THINGS: ALL THOUGHTS, ALL EMOTIONS, ALL EXPERIENCES, AND SO ON.

Yahweh Shalom. **Yahweh** is Peace.¹ Peace is not so much a feeling as it is an aspect of Yahweh’s personhood that is personally experienced through the *Design Point*. In the same way that we are told that God is love,² we now know that Yahweh is peace. Thus, to experience this peace, we need the one who is peace to be living in and through our lives. Peace is Yahweh.

Therefore, those who are now believing in **Yahweh** have peace because they have Him who is peace.³ The Greek word for peace, comes from a primary verb which literally means to join, to connect, to have no separation or division.⁴ It can be looked at as an absence of conflict. Thus, there is nothing which separates the one who is now believing from **Yahweh**.

Yahweh Shalom is a name that is shared amongst the Godhead. God the Father is peace, the Son is the Prince of Peace, and the Spirit is our bond of peace that keeps us unified together in Christ.⁵ And in speaking of the Holy Spirit, which the Father would give upon His departure from the earth, Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I

¹ *Judges 6*

² *1 John 4:8, 16*

³ *Romans 5:1; Isaiah 26:3*

⁴ See *Romans 5:1*, “*eirene*” from a primary verb “*eiro*” meaning to join

⁵ *Hebrews 13:20-22; Isaiah 9:6-7; Ephesians 4:3; John 14:27*

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give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”⁶

Therefore, **Yahweh Shalom** is the reason we can live at peace, not troubled or fearful, for **Yahweh Shammah** dwells with us through the Holy Spirit assuring us that we have no conflict with God, even when we do things wrong.

Let me say it this way, those who are now believing are now and continually safe with the Father, safe with the Son, and safe with the Holy Spirit.

This name first appears in **Judges 6** when Gideon had an encounter with the **Angel of Yahweh** (rendered, the Angel of the Lord), which is the form in which Jesus appeared to men and women throughout the Old Testament.⁷

During the time of Gideon, Israel had been subjected to the nation of Midian, for 7-years, because of its propensity for sin, corruption, and idolatry. It took many years of suffering until the people of Israel finally realized the worthlessness of the idols they had been worshiping. Realizing these so called “gods” would bring them no help and would not rescue them from the hand of Midian, they finally cried out to **Yahweh**, and He arranged for a deliverer—Gideon.

The Angel of **Yahweh** first appeared to Gideon when he was threshing wheat and the Angel instructed Gideon to go and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Gideon was not convinced he was talking to the **Angel of Yahweh** until he brought out an offering of meat, bread, and broth. The **Angel** touched the meal with His staff and fire jumped up from the rock and consumed the meal and then the **Angel of Yahweh** immediately disappeared.

Gideon suddenly understood that he was not just talking to any man or to any ordinary angel, but he was talking to **Yahweh**. This realization scared him to death, and he immediately cried out:

⁶ **John 14:25-27**

⁷ See Episode 2 (Jesus Has a Name, Jesus is the I Am). See also **Exodus 3:2-6; Genesis 26:23-25; 28:12-14; 16:11-14; Numbers 22:22-35; Joshua 5:13-15; Judges 2:1-5; 6:11-24; 13:1-23; 2 Samuel 24:16; 1 Kings 19:1-8; 2 Kings 1:3-16; 1 Chronicles 21: 14-30; Zechariah 1:10-12; 3:1-6**

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Judges 6:22-24

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

Yahweh assured Gideon that he was safe with Him, that he did not have to let his heart be troubled or overcome with fear. There was no conflict in his relationship with **Yahweh**, and therefore, Gideon could move forward with the confidence of peace.

With that as our introduction, let us 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. People do seem to 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. Worldly peace is not much more than an apparition that is there one minute and gone the next. And no matter what a person does, they cannot seem to find peace in any sustained experience.

That is why Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."⁸ The peace which Jesus gives and leaves with us is not a vaporous feeling, but is His very personhood; thus, His peace is solid, secure, and dependable.

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 tend to 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 them great distress, worry, fear, and anxiety. They let their hearts be troubled and overcome with fear.

Biblically, however, peace is **NOT** a feeling; rather, peace is a relational reality that is not

⁸ *John 14:27*

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dependent upon feelings but upon the personhood of **Yahweh**. If our feelings ever catch up to the relational reality of our peace with God (our absence of conflict), then wonderful; but our feelings do not determine our reality. In truth, our feelings are entirely irrelevant and far too often they fail to lead us in truth.

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 Yahweh**. He knew that God is good, perfect, and holy, and, well, he is none of the above. He also seemed to rightfully understand that death is the proper wages of sin, 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.⁹

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 **Yahweh**; but **Yahweh Shalom**, **Yahweh** who is Peace, declared that Gideon was safe with Him. And this was a declaration that Gideon could bet his life upon.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID. YOU WILL NOT DIE."

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. "Safe" has an entirely different connotation than that of a feeling of peace.

And then add to it the Greek understanding of being joined, without conflict or separation, and this name **Yahweh Shalom** powerfully declares that we do not have to be afraid or troubled, for we are good with God, and we are safe with God because He said so.

Do not get me wrong, **Yahweh Shalom** 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 because there is no conflict in the relationship.

Being safe, we do not have to fear **Yahweh's** judgment, punishment, or wrath. We do not have to fear the separation or death that is brought about by sin, because He has already and

⁹ *Romans 6:2*

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definitively dealt with the conflict caused by sin and the inherent separation that existed between us and God. Therefore, we are always safe all the time regardless of what we deserve.

Now this is an incredible truth that we need to obsess upon and use as a weapon to fight against the accusations made by the enemy, our *flesh*, and our conscience, all of which tells us that we have something to fear when we disobey God because He is mad at us and disappointed in us for failing Him once again. All of that is one big, huge, fat, stinky lie.

If we are willing to bet our lives upon this name, we will find that **Yahweh Shalom** decimates shame, guilt, condemnation, and fear. These feelings tend to consume us when we forget that we are at peace with God that and we have no conflict with Him because He is our peace. In addition, we already learned that **Yahweh Shammah** is always there, and there just happens to be in our *New Creation* that is created in His image, righteous, holy, and true.¹⁰ And since He promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us,¹¹ we can know His peace even when we have done things wrong.

Once again, when we are talking about a relationship defined by peace, we are not talking about feelings, we are talking about a relational reality. You may feel shameful, feel guilty, feel condemned, feel defeated and feel like you deserve punishment (which 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 to our faith. Faith is about digging down deep into our soul and betting our lives upon the truth, in this instance, that we always have peace with God.

When our feelings line up with faith it is a wonderful and quite powerful experience; but, more-often-than-not, they tend to defy the truth and oppose our faith. Therefore, it does not matter that you feel shameful, guilty, condemned, or defeated, those are just feelings. The reality is that **if** you have been **set apart** by **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**, then shame, guilt, condemnation, and defeat is not for you a relational reality! You do not have to worry or let your heart be troubled. You do not need to fear. You are safe!

¹⁰ *Ephesians 4:24*

¹¹ *Hebrews 13:5*

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One of my favorite expressions of this truth comes from **Romans 5**, “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.”¹²

The phrase, “since we have been made right in God’s sight,” is in the *aoist passive participle*. Thus, being right in God’s sight is our day-in-and-day-out reality (expressed through the *aoist* tense) and being in the *passive* voice, He does this for His chosen ones, regardless of our doing things “right” or “wrong.” And we know this is true because it is rendered as a *participle*. In other words, 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 to our emotions, but that is **Yahweh Shalom**. If someone treated us the way we treat God, we would have no patience for them and would likely cut them out of our lives or treat them awful in return. But not **Yahweh Shalom**. He loves us so much that **Yahweh Tsidkenu** continually cloaks us in His righteousness, and thereby makes us right before Him securing the peace of **Yahweh Shalom**.

The statement “we have peace with God” is rendered in the *present active indicative*. It is our now reality and that is a statement of indisputable fact, verified by the use of the *indicative* mood. Another way to say it is that now we are joined with God, and nothing interferes with that connection because all that was in the way, all our sin or transgression, has been removed as far as the east is from the west.¹³ Therefore, the work has been done and peace has been made and the Spirit has bound us together in Christ. Thus, we do not have to fear; all has been remedied, and we are safe all the time.

But again, since this peace is an aspect of **Yahweh’s** personhood, this experience of peace is known only by those who are **willing** to let **Yahweh** take up possession of their being, through whatever means is necessary.

Going back to Gideon, the first thing Gideon did was build an altar to **Yahweh** and he named it **Yahweh Shalom**. This altar stood as a constant reminder to Gideon that God had mercy on him,

¹² **Romans 5:1**

¹³ **Psalm 103:10-12**

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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. Therefore, he could rest in the plans which **Yahweh Adonai** and **Yahweh Raah** established for His life.

Perhaps building an altar is something we should do (metaphorically speaking). Many of us need that constant reminder that we are safe and have peace with God. Through the power of religion and all manner of legalism (the law, your law, my law, everyone's law), the enemy has trapped so many of us and bound us with the hard iron shackles of shame, guilt, condemnation, defeat, and failure. Thus, we live as if we are **to be** ashamed, guilty, condemned, defeated, and a failure. Accordingly, when we surrender to our feelings, our life tragically does not reflect the reality of our relationship with **Yahweh Shalom**.

We forget that we are safe. We forget that **Yahweh Tsikdenu** is the one who has made us right with Him and that He continually makes us right over, and over, and over again. He does not ask us to sacrifice to Him or to pay any penance to get right with Him; no, in His love He just makes us right. Truth be told, there is nothing that is in the way of our being joined to Him but our personal sovereignty, our **willingness**. Just like there is nothing in the way of our fulfilling the tasks (as impossible as they may seem) that He has set aside for us (just like Gideon and his 300 men), we just must be **willing** to bet our lives on His name, for He assures us 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, unless you are a sociopath, shouldn't you feel bad when you sin? Don't we all?

It is true, we are all aware of that familiar ping and discomfort we get in our spirit and in our conscience when we have willfully dishonored God. But let us think new about that whole experience and consider **Yahweh Shalom** who has made us safe and who has joined us together. Perhaps we might be able to interpret that ping, that discomfort, different than we have to date.

When we willfully sin against God and others, at some point we begin to feel terrible, and bad for sinning. This usually leads to a whole string of mental and emotional religious actions as we

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work toward remorse and what we like to call repentance, which usually means that we have spent an adequate amount of time feeling bad about it and are now ready to move on.

But as we have learned, **Yahweh Tsidkenu** has made us righteous. And it is the job of **Yahweh Mekoddishkem** to set us apart for Himself, to make us holy. And **Yahweh Shalom** has joined us in peace (without separation). Thus, until **Yahweh** has transformed us by His Spirit in that area of our failure and sin, guess what, we are likely going to continue to blow it. We can try extra-super hard to do it better, we can feel really, really bad, we can promise, “never again,” but none of those emotional and mental gyrations leads to transformation.

Therefore, that journey of remorse and repentance is a worthless journey promoted by our religious *flesh*. The command for us to repent is about fundamentally changing how we think about our sin and failure, which is something that comes with our transformation—through the renewal of our minds.¹⁴ Thus, the command to repent is about our willingness to let **Yahweh** have His war in our lives and our willingness to present ourselves as a living sacrifice on the altar that He might put our *flesh* to death. If we are **willing**, He will act.

But until He is ready to war and until we give Him permission to war, and until He decides to attack that awfully specific enemy in our soul which has us bound in wrong belief and unbelief (not believing that **Yahweh** is our **I AM**), we will likely continue to blow it because we are, by definition, humans who have a sin condition. It is who we are, and it is what we are, until **Yahweh** transforms that area of our life into His image. And, as we have learned, that all happens according to His timing and not ours.

Besides, God knows all about our sinful condition (who we are and what we are), which is why He died for it all to remove the shame, to remove the guilt, and to remove any accusation that ever be made against us.¹⁵ Accordingly, “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness towards those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the

¹⁴ “repent” in the Greek is the word “*metanoeo*” which means to exercise the mind or to think differently about something (see **Matthew 4:17**). See **Romans 12:1-2**

¹⁵ See **Colossians 2:10-15**

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Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.”¹⁶

With that in mind, what if that all too familiar prick and disturbance in your spirit and conscience is intended to serve not as a messenger of shame and religious remorse, but as an altar of remembrance of the peace which **Yahweh Shalom** has brought into your life and the joy that **Yahweh Tsidkenu** has made your righteous? When you feel that disturbance in your spirit, it should be an instant reminder that you are always and continually made right with **Yahweh** and that you are safe. It should be like the Gideon altar.

This is going to take some reprogramming of our brains—a renewal of your minds. But I encourage you to talk to the Spirit about this and consider the name of Jesus and what His name means for us. I believe that most of us have not understood the purpose of that familiar pang in our soul and we have let our feelings jump in with all religious authority and convince us that we should be ashamed, guilty, condemned, and defeated; and so, we live as such. It is so sad.

That pang should be to us a trumpet that declares the power of this truth and causes us to choose once again to humble ourselves before God because of how much He loves us. That is the power of the name **Yahweh Shalom**. We have peace with God.

And with that, we will break and complete our study of the name **Yahweh Shalom, Yahweh** who is peace, in our next episode.

¹⁶ *Psalm 103:10-14*