

1. Invite a friend to LifeLines!
2. LifeLines scripture for 1/30 will be Isaiah 12:2.

LifeLines January 23, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Isaiah 26:3

**Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace –
in peace because they trust in You.**

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

AN ASIDE: In this LifeLine, we travel from Hope & Joy to Peace. Receive each as a wonderful gift! Next week, we celebrate *Salvation* & give Thanks!

CONTEXT

This is part of Isaiah's song of praise. God defeated enemies in the land of Judah, & they were overjoyed at the victory. Isaiah celebrates God's trustworthiness to bring peace & to provide for the needs of His people, especially *their* ultimate need (& *ours*) – *salvation*. Isaiah sings about how even though Israel will be judged for their sins, they'll be restored by God & His mercy. He *prophesies* that God will save people from their sins. God cannot *not* be faithful! He is righteous, & He is peace.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

AMP

You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast (that is, committed & focused on You in both inclination & character), Because he trusts & takes refuge in You (with hope & confident expectation).

CEB (Common English Bible)

Those with sound thoughts You will keep in peace, in peace because they trust in You.

CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

GNT

You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm & put their trust in You.

GW (God's Word Translation)

With perfect peace You will protect those whose minds cannot be changed, because they trust You.

ISV (International Standard Version)

You will keep perfectly peaceful the one whose mind remains focused on You, because he remains in You.

MSG

People with their minds set on You, You keep completely whole, steady on their feet, because they keep at it & don't quit.

NCV (New Century Version)

You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on You, because they trust You.

NIRV (New International Readers Version)

Lord, You will give perfect peace to anyone who commits himself to be faithful to You. That's because he trusts in You.

NLT (New Living Translation)

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You.

TLB (The Living Bible - a paraphrase, not a translation)

He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord!

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace... God's peace is real. It is true, solid peace. That's why we refer to it as "perfect" peace. It is inward as well as outward peace granted to His people, believers, as a Fruit of the Spirit.

in peace because they trust in You... Only in the Lord is true peace found. God alone is worthy of all our trust. We will not find peace in, nor are we to trust in, riches, titles, ourselves, another person, distractions, privileges, quick fixes – only in the Lord.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (There are certainly related verses not included in this list. Add others as you think of them.)

Deuteronomy 10:20-21, You shall fear the Lord your God; Him alone you shall worship; to Him you shall hold fast, & by His name you shall swear. He is your praise; He is your God, who has done for you these great & awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

Psalm 9:10, And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Psalm 119:165, Great peace have those who love Your law; nothing can make them stumble.

Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, & do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, & He will make straight your paths.

Isaiah 12:2, Surely God is my salvation; I will trust & will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength & my might; He has become my salvation.

Isaiah 26:4, Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 26:12, O Lord, You will ordain peace for us, for indeed, all that we have done, You have done for us.

Jeremiah 17:7, Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord.

Micah 5:5a, And He shall be the One of peace.

John 14:27, Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, & do not let them be afraid.

John 16:33, I have said this to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the word you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world.

Romans 5:1, Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:28, We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

Ephesians 2:13-14a, But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace,

Philippians 4:7, And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19, And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

SUMMARY

This is one of those verses which is supposed to keep us calm no matter what is going on around us. Does it sound too simple to “trust in God” or “keep your mind stayed on God”? Truly, this is a *very* simple thing to do as long as you remember *simple isn't always easy*. It requires acceptance of God's goodness, mercy, love for us & our future, & it requires surrender on our part, knowing we cannot do anything on our own. God equipped us to lean

on Him, depend on Him, rely on Him, ask Him for help. We are to invite Him into every particle of our lives.

The key is keeping our mind on God. If we keep our minds *stayed on* ourselves, our problems, challenges, disappointments, discord, it's impossible for us to have perfect peace. When we clutter our minds with distractions, conflicts & other trash, we leave no room for peace. When we take our eyes or focus off of God, we misplace the peace He offers. Too often we attempt to find peace on our own – elsewhere - chasing after *things that do not satisfy*. God is the only reliable source of peace!

A *steadfast mind* is fixed on God as a healthy fixation. Our thoughts should be linked with & attached to Him. We're to think about Him all the time. Being one with Him as Jesus was One with Him is our goal. When we truly trust God, our minds can't be swayed or changed. What freedom & peace that brings! The perfect peace spoken of here is the wonderfully intriguing Hebrew word, *shalom*, which means so much more than peace. It means completeness, wholeness, fullness. In Hebrew it is stated as *shalom, shalom*. The repetition communicates the intensity of this shalom kind of peace. Think of it as opening up the double doors to *shalom*, as we become *satiated*, knowing our every desire & need will be fully, even excessively satisfied!

If we feel we *are* falling away or *have* fallen away from His perfect peace, we need only reach out to the Holy Spirit. Romans 12:2 reminds us we can “be transformed by renewing our minds in order to discern the will of God – what is good, acceptable & perfect.” It is His will that we remain close to Him, focus on Him & remain in His perfect peace.

CONCLUSION

God's peace is not a false or imaginary peace. His peace is possible even in stressful, troubled times, because *it is a choice!* His perfect peace enters the soul (mind, will & emotions*) of all who decide to trust Him. Imagine what that would feel like in the depth of our soul! By choosing God, we welcome peace. When we trust in the Lord we receive the blessing of His promise – perfect peace. Thank goodness Jesus made it possible for all of us to come to God, to know Him & have a beautiful, intimate relationship with Him. That relationship & His peace sustain us on earth & will accompany us to heaven!

*Let this verse be a **LifeLine** for you!*

Let's Continue Learning!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

*Imagine if God's perfect peace would enter every aspect of your soul: every corner of your mind & all your thoughts; your will, intentions & actions; all your feelings & emotions! Try putting that into words or a prayer of thanksgiving.

References: wearerefuge.net; crosswalk.com; enduringword.com; merriam-webster.com; crosswalk.com; christianity.com; biblehub.com; biblestudytools.com; dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com;