

35. As we can see by Paul's example, when Paul admitted his weaknesses, his life and others (including ours) were impacted. As you finish your final FIFTEEN this week, consider how you might affect others by admitting your weaknesses and allow others to help you. Then ask God to help you work toward this goal in prayer.

Week Two: *Path of Harmony*

Philippians 4:6-7

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Harmony or peace is an attribute of God. God's Son came into the world to establish peace between the Father and His rebellious creation. What has God provided you with to live at peace with Him?
2. When Paul speaks of the "peace of God, which transcends all understanding", how is God's peace different than the world's peace?
3. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What causes anxiousness in your life? What does Paul say is the antidote to anxiousness or worry?
4. Paul says the ingredient of thanksgiving should be tinged and intermingled in our attitudes and prayers toward God. What is the connection between a thankful heart and a peaceful heart?
5. Recall the instances and circumstances in which you have experienced peace with God. What was necessary and present in your heart in those experiences?
6. Paul implores us to present our requests before God. Why do you think God would grant you the desires of your heart? Does it mean that you will always get what you want?
7. Take time to be honest with God today. What you want, complain about, need, or desire will not be criticized or judged. Moreover, measure each request with a prayer of Thanksgiving. See how God grants peace in your heart and life toward your relationship with Him.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Yesterday we explored how peace with God is possible through His Son. Today we want to explore our inner peace. When you pursue peace and harmony in your own life, what does it look like to you?
9. You are uniquely and wonderfully made. Read Psalm 139 and note some of the ways in which God knows all about you, and considers you his child.
10. If God is intimately involved with the fashioning of His creation, in what ways has he gifted you to reflect His glory?

11. God is a giver of great peace and harmony when we are doing what we have been created to do. When you feel called to do something, are you willing to pursue it wholeheartedly, or postpone and push down those desires to preserve peace in your life?

12. As you seek out peace in your inner self, what are some of the things that you tell yourself? Do the things you tell and think about yourself come from others perceptions or your own? Additionally, do the things you tell yourself agree or harmonize with what God tells you?

13. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask for help in reminding that God has made you unique, and that your dreams, callings, and feelings are worth pursuing as you bow your heart to God.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

14. Over the next three days we are going to explore peace in our relationships.

15. How do you feel about conflict? Are you of the mindset that says, “Bring it on, I prefer my voice to be heard” or “I avoid it when I can, few things matter that much”? Explain your answer.

16. Today we want to look at a healthy pursuit of peace. Paul has much to say about living at peace with our brothers and sisters. Read Romans 12:18. What does it mean “ as much as it depends on you”?

17. How do you determine when it is best for you to make your voice be heard, and when it is the time for you to be silent and let others get their way?

18. When listening to others opinions and perspectives, how do you sort through all of their feelings and opinions and make sure that what you feel and express are truly your own thoughts and perspectives?

19. We must be careful at attempts to pursue peace at the expense of expressing our own dreams or desires. “Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”- C.S. Lewis. What does Lewis imply in this quote? How can peace that God provides be connected with humility?

20. Finish up your FIFTEEN today by identifying thoughts or relationships that could be stagnate with growth at the expense of the avoidance of conflict. Start small. Be confident that your opinion matters, and that you are created uniquely by God.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four- relationships

21. Read Matthew 5:3-9. In this section of scripture called the Beatitudes, Jesus calls peacemakers the children of God. (Matthew 5:9) Describe the qualities you think that peacemakers possess.

22. What is the benefit of having peace with oneself in order to sift through others different opinions and feelings that keep us from getting along?
23. In your pursuit of peace, how does peace become linked with understanding?
24. How can God use you as a peacemaker in relationships that have become derailed due to conflict?
25. Finish your FIFTEEN by reminding yourself of the identity and peace you've been given in a relationship through his Son. Secure in that knowledge, ask God to help you to be sensitive to the viewpoints of others, and to provide a point of security and understanding to helping two sides achieve peace.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

26. Today we will explore what it means to have peace with our enemies or those who are opposed to us. How can self-righteousness get in the way of what it means to have peace with those opposed to us?
27. Read what Jesus says about loving your enemies in Matthew 5:43-48.
28. What comes to mind when you think about people who have offended you?
29. Recall a time when you have offended others. What must be done to seek peace in your life after such an event?
30. Earlier this week, we explored Romans 12:18. Go back and read Romans 12:14-21. How can we have harmony and peace even when people have wronged us, or even spoken evil against the Lord?
31. As you finish your final FIFTEEN this week, consider all that it means to pursue peace. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit the Father intends for you to possess. As you pursue peace, the most important thing to understand is the role of His Son and all he has done to be the bringer of peace. Continue to take inventory of the areas and relationships in your life that could benefit from more peace and harmony.