

## viv's weekly encouragement

september 18, 2020

Hi KC Parents!

When I was in my teens, the hippie movement was in full swing. Flower children were having "Love ins" and getting psychedelic, while the Vietnam War was raging on. Civil unrest and riots were storming our nation. Sound familiar?

Peace was important and something to be sought after. It was a hot topic during the hippie times, just as it is today. Many greeted one another with the word, "Peace" while holding up 2 fingers as a sign. Rejecting the norms of society, we endeavored to attain peace through harmony with nature, recreational drug use, free love-you name it.

Not much has changed over the years. We all want peace. Peace as a nation and peace in our souls. But the peace we desire cannot be fulfilled without God in the picture. We need biblical peace!

The word for peace in Hebrew, "Shalom", is commonly used as both a greeting and a farewell. Its accurate translation implies more than just a lack of conflict.

According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, shalom means "completeness, soundness, welfare, peace." It is translated as "success". Shalom is applicable to an external peace between two entities—such as individuals or nations—and also to an internal sense of peace within the individual. It has the idea of wholeness, and harmony- prosperity success, and fulfillment.

With this in mind, look at what Isaiah has to say about peace and those who trust in the God of peace...

"Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose imaginations are consumed with you; they confidently trust in you." Is. 26:3 TPT

Perfect, absolute peace.

This is a peace we can access and experience every day, all day long regardless of what's happening around us. We access this gift of peace by keeping our minds focused and concentrated on God Almighty and His word. His peace will surround us when we fall back in trust, into His strong and loving arms.

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." John 14:27

Lord, we receive your gift of peace today. Help us remember that your peace is the only true peace that can relieve us of our stress, our heartaches, our panic, and our pain. As we put our complete trust in you, surround us with your perfect, flawless, and absolute peace. Oh, how we need your peace today!

Blessings, Viv Stone