

“The Shalom Peace of God”

By McKade Marshall

We are living in unprecedented times. The new decade has brought more turmoil with it than perhaps most expected. Who knew a global pandemic would break out and affect the entire world in a way we have never seen before? Who knew rioting and civil unrest would explode shortly thereafter? The good news today is we can still have peace in the midst of the storm. We can have order and a sound mind in the presence of chaos. *There is a peace we can always have as believers in Christ, and it is the shalom peace of God.* The word “Shalom” is a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, and wholeness. It can also serve as a greeting or farewell. To have shalom means to have wholeness in every area of life.

One of the greatest examples from the Scriptures of having shalom during the midst of the storm is when Jesus was in a peaceful sleep in the stern of a boat during a massive storm on the sea. All the while, the disciples were freaking out because the waves were splashing overboard causing the boat to sink. The disciples wake Jesus up and say in Mark 4:38 (NLT), “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” Jesus gets up and commands the winds and the waves to stop. His creation obeys. The winds die down, and the seas become calm. As you can imagine, the disciples stand there in awe and amazement. Up to this point in their walk with Jesus the disciples had not fully grasped just how powerful the Son of God truly is. He is God, the Creator of the universe, walking around with them perfectly in human flesh.

Today Jesus is commanding the winds and the waves of your life to be still.

The authority Jesus exercised during Biblical times is still fully available to all believers today. *Jesus tells us in Luke 10:19 (NLT), “Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy.”* The power you possess is not your own, but rather, it is the power of God that is at rest inside of every Christian’s heart. If you have accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, then you have full access to the supernatural power of God. The same Spirit that rested upon Christ rests upon His church. You have authority to speak to the raging seas and say, “Be still.” You have authority to speak to a bad health report and say, “Be healed.” You have authority to speak to a financial setback and say, “I have more than enough.”

When you speak the opposite of what is happening in the natural world, that is your faith speaking. Faith is what gets God’s attention. A few years ago, I was dealing with a case of the hives. I was under tremendous stress with work and publishing a new book. I had gone through several personal difficulties, and the stress became so much that my body reacted to the stress by hiving. I had never hived before, except maybe once in my childhood. As the hives worked their way around my body, every day I would declare God’s supernatural healing over my skin. I did my best to keep from stressing myself. It helped some. However, I had to stretch my faith and believe God was causing the hives to go away, even as the itching and welts continued.

A few days later the hives finally left. Over the next few weeks the hives would try to come back, but every time I would rebuke the scratchy feeling. I would declare boldly, “I am not a hiver, in Jesus’ name!” It was kind of funny hearing myself say it. Do you know that since I began declaring that every time I start to feel that scratchy feeling, I never hive? To this day, if I think my skin is trying to hive, I remind the enemy who I am. I am a child of God, and hives are not allowed on God’s property in Jesus’ name! The same thing is true for you. When a circumstance or problem comes your way that does not line up with what God says, declare the opposite.

Declare the Word of God. Declare the Truth.

When you declare the Word of God, the shalom peace of God can calm the storm. His peace is greater than any spiritual force trying to come against you. At different times in life, we are going to have certain areas that are better than others. You may be doing well financially, but your health is down. You may be doing ok, but there is strife in the

house. You are happy at home, but work is stressful. Then again, sometimes we need an overhaul of God's peace because our health, finances, and relationships are all suffering at once! Just as the seasons cause the temperature outside to rise and fall, the course of your life is going to have its ups and downs. *The way you enjoy life and live it more abundantly (see John 10:10) is by learning to walk in the shalom peace of God.* When Jesus ministered, He never lost His peace. Even when the Sadducees and Pharisees tried to test and disprove Him, He maintained His position of strength.

Keeping your peace is a position of strength. One way the devil attempts to get us off course is by sending problems our way to try and disrupt our peace on the inside. The enemy knows if he can throw us off on the inside, then he can get us to act out in distress and agitation on the outside. The Lord has called us to a better life, one full of love and peace, rather than one filled with discord and anger. **The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 14:17 (NIV), "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."** Stirring up the Holy Spirit is how we experience the shalom of God. It is how we see breakthroughs in our relationships, ministries, businesses, finances, and health.

As children of God, we are entitled to God's shalom peace. We should not accept anything less. Singing the Lord's praises, reading the Bible, praying, and spending time around other believers is how we fan the flame of the Holy Spirit. *2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NKJV) says, "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* The Lord does not want you walking around in fear and terror of the world. Sure, there are a lot of bad things going on in the world today. There are plenty of things in the natural world to be worried about. However, the good news is we are not of this world. We belong to a kingdom that is higher and much greater. We belong to God's Kingdom, and His kingdom is not subject to the kingdom that is at work in the world.

Not long ago I had just picked up my coffee at the local coffee shop, and I was headed to get my car washed. While driving up to an intersection I began to have a vision. It is not unusual for God to show me different things while I'm driving, as I spend a lot of my prayer and praise time in the car. In this vision I began to see two different worlds through my spiritual eyes. It was so dramatic on my mind as I drove. Through my left eye I saw a bright world, full of light, love, and life. Out of my right eye I saw a darker world. This world was dim, and it was full of violence, chaos, and hatred. Then the Lord began to speak to my heart. He showed me there were two different kingdoms, or dominions, at work in this world. They are totally and completely opposite. One kingdom, the Kingdom of God, is growing brighter and brighter, like the dawn growing to full day. The other kingdom, the kingdom of darkness, is growing darker and darker. This demonic kingdom continued to grow darker until it fully disappeared and was no more.

Friends, we are living in a spiritual war. Before you knew Jesus Christ, you were held in bondage to the kingdom of darkness. All of us must be saved and redeemed from the dominion of darkness and moved into the Kingdom of Light! The reason this world looks so chaotic and is full of hate is because this world is not of God's Kingdom. The Bible tells us in Colossians 1:13-14 (NASB), "For God rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." The Kingdom of Light is where all who follow Jesus are called to walk. This invisible kingdom is eternal. Its king is Jesus Christ. This world is quickly passing away in light of eternity (see 1 John 2:17). The way you keep your peace and have "shalom" is by keeping your eyes focused on the Kingdom of God and not this world.

Through Christ we can call forth the things of God's kingdom and see them manifest in our lives. Through Christ we have access to all of God's promises (2 Corinthians 1:20). When your checkbook says you don't have enough money to cover rent this month, declare God's Word and say, "God is supplying all of my needs according to His glorious riches." (Philippians 4:19) When your child is misbehaving and keeps getting into trouble, declare, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15) When you feel hated by the world, declare, "Nothing can separate me from God's love in Christ." (Roman 8:39) Now more than ever we need to be standing on the Word of God and His promises. This world is only going to grow darker and darker in these Last Days. We are living in a time when right will be called wrong, and wrong will be called right (see Isaiah 5:20 & 2 Timothy 3:1).

The good news today is by faith you have overcome the world!

Your faith in Christ is what causes you to triumph. Your faith is what causes the shalom peace of God to rest upon every area of your life. *1 John 5:4 (NLT)* says, “*For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.*” You are the salt of the earth. Salt is useful for many things. Salt can be used to preserve food. It can be used to give flavor. Salt can also be used to put out fires. Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35). When you partake of the Body of Christ, attend church, read God’s Word, pray, and serve in God’s Kingdom, you are taking in the Bread of Life. One time on their way to Capernaum Jesus’ disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest in Christ’s Kingdom. The competitive spirit we have today existed in Jesus’ day too.

The disciples (James and John, in particular) wanted to be first place and sit next to Jesus on His throne. Of course, this made the other disciples indignant with them. Jesus responds by saying the least would be the greatest. He then tells all of them in Mark 9:50 (NLT), “Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.” In God’s Kingdom we are to live at peace with one another. Positive, uplifting relationships are one of the many things God desires for your life. It is another aspect of having shalom. We are called to put out the fires and arguments of life with the truth. We are called to preserve the Word of God by learning it, teaching it, and living it. This is what it means to have salt.

When you are at a place of peace, God can establish and grow you to new levels you’ve never seen before. This is what happened six years ago when I first started writing. When I finished my first book, *Tasting the Goodness of God*, I had just read through the entire Bible over the course of nine months. I had five journals filled with notes. I did not plan on starting to write books until I was much older, but God had a different plan! The dream to become an author came to life many years before I thought it ever would. One reason I believe God answered my prayers is because I put Him first. I went through a season of incubation, where I spent hours reading and studying, before the Lord could release the anointing for me to launch what is now a global ministry.

Reading and studying the Bible is what releases the shalom peace of God in your life.

During this period of my life God showed me it was critical to spend time with Him every single day. Reading the Bible is like eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If you don’t feed your spiritual body, then you cannot be spiritually healthy and whole. Whatever is going on in your spirit is what dictates the direction of your life. Having shalom wholeness is the gift God has to offer to anyone who comes to Him. *Jesus says in John 14:27 (NLT), “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace (shalom) I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”* The only way to have lasting peace is through Jesus Christ. The world cannot offer something it does not have. This world does not possess the peace of God.

Shalom is a gift. I learned this during times of ministry and personal growth. When you come to a place of peace on the inside, the outside world no longer dictates your mind, will, and emotions. We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). When I first started writing seasonal newsletters in 2014 (this being the 23rd seasonal newsletter), I did not know that in a few short years these gospel newsletters would be traveling the world. At first the newsletters were mailed to only a handful of people in Texas and California. About five years later - that is, five full years of being faithful to God’s calling to write - the ministry took off! I stumbled upon Facebook ads that enabled me to target new readers and viewers in different parts of the United States. As the Holy Spirit moved me to pursue this new strategy of targeting a broader audience, people began to donate to support the cause.

A major landmark achievement happened last year when people in all 50 states across the USA signed up to receive newsletters and weekly gospel videos. MLM Publishing has grown so dramatically in the last nine months because of donors. Men and women from all over the world have given online and by mail. **All of these funds given have been used to promote ads online targeting people in all 50 states across the United States, and now people in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales & England), Ireland, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, and Israel.** From the beginning over 5 years ago, I have always declared MLM Publishing would be a global business and a global ministry - that one day the books, videos, newsletters, and other media produced - would touch souls in every single country of the world for God’s Kingdom.

Today that declaration is being fulfilled.

Men and women in all 50 states of the USA are receiving weekly gospel videos via email and seasonal newsletters in the mail. I currently have email subscribers in the Netherlands, Pakistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Japan, Australia,

Cape Verde, Canada, Kenya, the Emirates, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, New Zealand, and Israel. By faith I'm still calling in all 195 countries of the world, and I invite you to join me through prayer and giving in this divine quest to reach more souls with the message of salvation and God's goodness. For those who are counting sheep (or in this case, countries!), gospel emails are reaching 14 out of 195 countries every week. We are 7% of the way there! Gospel newsletters are physically mailed out to 7 of these 14 countries.

If you know someone that is not signed up to receive these newsletters, or you are not signed up, I encourage you to go to mlmpublishing.org, or my personal website mckademarshall.com, and submit your information there. Also, I email thousands of subscribers a weekly gospel message every Sunday evening called "Word of the Week". If you or someone you know that might be interested is not subscribed, please make sure to add your email addresses as well. I do not want you to miss out on these encouraging, faith-filled weekly messages.

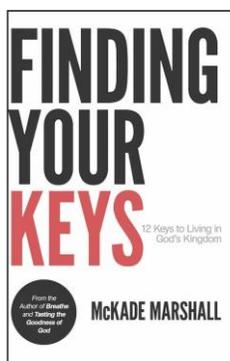
I declare this summer you have the shalom peace of God. Just as Jesus was not alarmed when the disciples thought the storm was about to sink their boat, you are not going to be alarmed when the storms of life inevitably come. As you stay at peace on the inside, God is causing all things to work together for your good. Everything you put your hands to is going to prosper and succeed. You are anointed to do great works for the Kingdom of God. With the Lord's help, there is nothing you cannot accomplish! I love you, and I am praying for you.

Shalom,

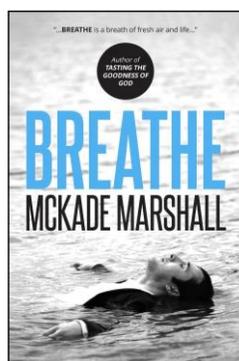


McKade "Levi" Marshall
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P.S. Donations to MLM Publishing can be made online or by check (mail to: PO Box 5762, Abilene TX 79608). All proceeds from one-time and monthly recurring donations will go towards promoting weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters. Even small amounts can make a large impact! *For example, on average, for about \$2 spent on a lead ad, a person from any part of the country now signs up to receive weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters after seeing a "lead ad". For perspective, just \$10 dollars can change the lives of 5 people, plus whoever they share with, for years to come! Your gift makes an eternal impact!*



AUTHORITY



DREAM



DEVOTION

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