

SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD Monday, July 24, 2023 Scripture: Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:8, John 14:27 TITLE: Salvation Is Peace with God

What's the goal of life? Is it to be happy? Is it to make a lot of friends? Is it to be successful in business? If you ask a Buddhist, the goal of life is to abandon all desires and experience Nirvana. If you ask a Muslim, it's to please Allah and make it to Paradise. If you ask a Hindu, it's to experience Moksha. It's the ending of the cycle of reincarnation. But according to the Bible, the goal of life is to experience Salvation or peace with God.

How does a person experience this peace with God? How does a person experience Salvation? Listen to what Paul said in Romans 5:1 (NLT):

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

If you've been training with us in this spiritual fitness journey, you'll remember that mankind has a sin problem. The Bible tells us that everyone sins, and the human heart is wicked. What the Bible describes, the world enforces.

We have a sin problem. That sin separates us from God. It makes us enemies of God. That's why Jesus Christ came: To remove our sin and create permanent peace with God.

But this gift of Salvation can't be bought or earned. It can't be won in a lottery. It's a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8 says,

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

What God did is blow up religion. Religion says what you can try to do to experience Moksha, Nirvana, or a trip to Paradise, but the problem is you never know if you've done enough. And the reality is, when you sin against a holy God, there is nothing you can do to even the score. So God has to do it all.

In a world that's broken and falling apart due to sin, we need peace. We need peace with God and peace that is bigger than what's around us?

That's why my challenge for you is to embrace that peace. Our Salvation from God – that gift from God - gives us eternal peace with our Creator, but also provides peace in all circumstances. Jesus said in John 14:27,

"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."

Whatever health diagnosis, financial crisis, relationship turmoil, or anything else, know this: you forever are God's child and have eternal peace with Him. Not only that, but He offers you peace because of that hope. So today, rest in the peace of God. He is our Father, our Protector, and our Peace Provider.

When we embrace the peace that He offers, we will win the day.