



So many of us often feel like God is angry or disappointed in us. We envision the cold, distant “big man upstairs” crossing his arms, agitated as we fail to get it right — *again* — as he sighs impatiently at our frailties. Sometimes, we even say things like, “I like the *New* Testament God, but not the *Old* Testament God,” as if he somewhere, he changed from “Grumpy God” to “Joyful Jesus.” And while we can find ourselves a little lost in the overall narrative of his story, we must understand something: God never changed. It was that *Old* Testament God who made us in love — in his image — because he adores us. When we strayed in the Garden, our choice crafted disastrous consequences: sin, pain, shame, the desire to run and hide and death. But we must not forget that the *New* Testament Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29) was slain at the very *foundation* of the *Old* Testament world (Revelation 13:8). God knew before we ever breathed that loving him must be a choice. Love is *always* a choice. He knew we’d fall...and he knew he’d come for us. It was all written into his design from the very first page to pay for our every debt so that he could again invite us to simply choose him. When we come to Jesus, he topples down every dividing wall of hostility. It isn’t just that he gives us peace. He himself *is* our peace (see Ephesians 2:14). Because of that, you will never need to slave to earn his favor or prove your love through duty. The spotless Lamb has written the final word that you are at peace with the God who adores you, and today, as you learn to trust him, he delights to flood you with the riches of his grace.

“*Peace* I leave with you; my *peace* I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” John 14:27 – Emphasis added.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand” Romans 5:1-2 – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *Do you see the Old Testament God as different from the New Testament Jesus? How do you see them differently? Make a list of your perceived differences and don’t be afraid to be vulnerable and brutally honest. God is a big boy and can take it!*
2. *Now, be vulnerable and ask Jesus to come in and, in his time, dissolve these differences so that you can fully trust the God who has always had the same love for you. Note: This may be a process that takes months or years — but it is all part of growing in him and he is pleased with the honesty and hunger of your heart **today**. If you find places of deep struggle, be willing to seek outside counsel.*

WORSHIP RESOURCE:

*“We will go forth in joy and be led in peace.
The mountains break before us and sing!”*

Listen to “Isaiah 55” by Caleb & Jamaris. Find more info about their album at the back of the devotional.

PRAYER:

*Daddy, you’re not angry with me. You’re not standing off in the distance watching with disapproval. You aren’t offended by my shortcomings or embarrassed by my weaknesses. Your jealous love demanded that I know you. Your sacrifice demolished every wall that separated me from you. At the cross, you purchased my peace with you – a peace powerful enough to fill every fiber of my being as it covers my **past**, every faulty **perception** I could ever hold and the **process** of growing up as your kid. I am yours and I receive all of the favor, love and grace you freely lavish upon me. Peace with you is my forever inheritance. Let your peace flood my heart, my thoughts, my relationships and every place my foot steps today!*

LISTENING TIME:

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don’t rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING



TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Ask, “What does it mean to have peace with God? Why was it such a big deal for Jesus to purchase peace for us?” Pray together and thank him for the cross, receiving the joy that comes with his peace.

TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Ask the Lord to bring people to your heart who need salvation and peace with God. Boldly call them into God’s Kingdom by name. Call for curses in their life to be broken by the blood of Jesus and for the blessing of God’s peace to permeate every area of their lives!