

or she is on thin ice, is in over his or her head and does not have peace. We must believe that God will help us to fulfill anything He leads us to undertake.

Why Is What We Believe About God Important?

If we don't believe any of the above we are not going to trust God to do what He wants to do for us. In a word we are never going to trust Him to give us peace. Just as it is important for us not to lay down our peace, it is just as critical for us to trust God to receive His peace.

You cannot have peace and at the same time doubt that God will provide for you. Settle the issue once and for all in our heart and mind. God is our provider. He will meet our needs as we learn to trust and obey Him.

Essential # 3
God Made us The Way We Are For A Purpose

There are many things about our life in which we have no control. We need to accept those things as part of the way God made us. Our race, culture, language, nationality, sex, and many attributes of our physical being are God's choices. All these traits and factors taken as a whole make you a unique person on this earth. Nobody who has ever lived before us has been just like us. Nobody on earth today is just like us. Nobody who will ever live will be just like us, including our children. We are unique and very special creation of God, designed for a particular purpose on this earth that God has had in mind from eternity past. Accept who God made us to be.

God always challenges us to grow and change is in our character. The Bible tells us that God is at work in every believer's life to conform that person into the character likeness of Christ Jesus.

Essential #4
God Has A Place Where We Truly Belong

A person who feels unwanted, rejected, or continually lonely is not a person who has peace deep within. Feeling that we belong to someone or to a group of people who love us is vital for our inner peace. God tells us plainly that we are to have fellowship with other believers in the church. The Bible tells us that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. (Hebrews 10:25) Why? Because every person in the body of Christ has been given a unique personality, set of abilities and skills, at least one ministry gift, and natural talents. God expects each of us to share these unique attributes with other believers in a loving, generous way.

Essential #5
God Has A Plan For Our Fulfillment

For real inner peace, a person needs to know that he or she is competent, able, capable and skilled at doing something. Those who don't feel competent have a feeling that they are about to fail. God's desire is for every person to become skilled at using the talents and aptitudes he or she was given at birth. To continue to develop in our talents, aptitudes and ministry gifts every day of our lives. God will not lead us to become something without aiding us to become the best we can possibly be.

The fact that we are capable of continuing to learn and develop tells us that we will never be fully competent at anything. But we should never lock ourselves into saying we can't. We should believe that "by the grace of God and with the help of God, we can do this. A person who feels he or she is a "failure" does not have peace. A person who feels as if he

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church
Bible Study
Monday, September 24, 2007

God has never been out of control over His creation for one fraction of a second since creation. We may not completely understand God's purposes, but we can be assured of this-God is still in control. He is just as omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, and all loving as He has always been.

When things happen, particularly tragedies or crisis such as 911 we often find ourselves asking "why?" Why did God allow this to happen or why did this happen? If we continue to ask why, we will find ourselves getting bogged down, because why questions never get fully answered. If we ask "what now" or "how shall I respond" we will move forward with direction and purpose and we will have greater peace. Understanding the ways of God always leads to an understanding that God will act in a way that brings eternal blessings for His children.

There is what Dr. Charles Stanley calls five essential beliefs for a peaceful heart. What we believe about God has a great deal to do with whether or not we have the "peace of God that passes all understanding."

Essential Belief # 1
God Is Absolutely Sovereign

Recognizing and accepting the truth that God is sovereign over absolutely everything is vital for our inner peace. Sovereign meaning that nothing related to us is beyond His watchful and loving care. Often we ask ourselves what will happen? Suppose this happens? Suppose that happens? Psalm 91 helps us with these questions. It speaks about God's control over all the affairs of life. God is our protector. He is the one who preserves our life from hour to hour, day to day, year to year. No matter what happens to us, God has a plan to bless us on this earth and reward us in eternity.

Essential Belief #2
God Is Our Provider

From cover to cover the Bible has a message that God is the One who provides for all our needs. The Bible tells us: "those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing." (Psalm 34:10) It is not part of God's plan for us to lie awake at night, tossing and turning and wondering about any concern that we may have. The need we have may not be a need for food, water or clothing. It may be a need for emotional healing, spiritual deliverance, a new opportunity for employment, reconciliation of a broken relationship, or any one of a host of other internal or relational needs. God is able to meet that need. He is the God who provides for His people all things that are required for a full, satisfying and purposeful life.