

Peace

September 25, 2022

Isaiah 26:3, NLT

Introduction

What causes you to lose sleep? chs. 24-27 "Isaiah's Apocalypse"... judgment of nations, God's ultimate reign over evil; 25 praise to God; 26 song of salvation "in that day," Christ's 2nd coming: verses

- 1) security of God's salvation
- 2) for all who are righteous, the faithful
- 3) promise to individuals: Perfect peace: shalom shalom... Hebrew method emphasizing a word, to emphasize genuineness of the peace

Keep guard as with a garrison (JFB); God guards

Main Idea

Live in God's peace. How? By doing two things

- 1) First, trust Jesus (and keep trusting Him)
Trusts: batach = to feel safe, be confident, secure, to rely on (vb tense implies continued action)
 - a) as we do for salvation, for life every day, despite our trust issues
 - b) "After all He's done for me, I realize God deserves my trust when I can't figure out the 'How could you let this happen?' question. (Becky Lusignolo, Challenge S.B.)
 - c) Amplified: and takes refuge in [Him] with hope & confident expectation... believing God is at work
 - d) Philippians 4:19, NLT: And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

e) practically (What does trust look like?)

- i) Obedience:
- ii) dependence (Matthew 6:33):
- iii) believing God, not how we feel:

2) Second, keep focusing on Him.

fixed on: to lean against a wall with one's hand (vb. tense implies continued action)

a) requires new thinking (Rom. 12:1-2)

- i) we're used to thinking about worldly things

Rom. 12:2, NLT: Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Colossians 3:1-2, NLT: 1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

- ii) We cannot trust what we think about something because of our pasts; like wearing cracked lenses

EX: a betrayal can warp our view of others' relationships

- iii) our feelings are not trustworthy; arise from our thoughts

Caution: We are great at creating stories in our minds.

Caution: Wrong thinking leads to "bad" feelings...

Answer: We need the power of the gospel, through the Word and Holy Spirit, to set us free, to help us think differently, truly.

b) Requires conscious effort (2Cor. 10:5)

- i) what we think about

Philippians 4:8, NLT: Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

- ii) applying spiritual disciplines: studying Bible, talking to God, speaking in tongues, thanking God, praising God, worshiping God...transforms our thinking

Conclusion

Altar