

L A S T

What it takes to LAST

“Where’s your peace at?” This question is one I have heard all my life by my mother. I can remember so many times asking her advice or confiding in her for counsel. Without fail, I always knew we would come back to this question. Almost every time I have come to a place where I was so overwhelmed with a situation that I didn’t know what else to do, I could ask myself “Where’s your peace at?” and automatically go on a journey of course correction or self- discovery. “Where’s your peace at?” has been instrumental in helping me LAST through every situation I have walked through. This will be a study that we can give attention to each phase of what it takes to LAST. Even when life sends a storm our way, peace is always where God is ... run to Him and you will be right where peace lives!

- Listen & Locate
- Act
- Stand
- Triumph

“Where’s Your Peace At?”

Our journey will begin with listening to God through His Word and letting it locate us on the map of God’s will. I am excited to take this journey with you and pray that God will reveal things to you that make your way clear, lighten your load, relieve your burden and put joy in your steps. My prayer is that you will take what God has revealed to me and let him reveal new & deeper things to you as you study.

This study will use the NIV and Message translations of the Bible.

LOCATE & LISTEN:

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
John 10:10*

Has the enemy thrown you a curve ball? (John 10:10) Maybe you’ve been a little disoriented, looking around to find anything and everything to hold on to because you are frightened, in a panic or angry. Here is the time when we can tell where we are on the roadmap of our spiritual lives. If we see that we respond to situations with a peaceful spirit (undisturbed composure ... Is. 54:13) this is a great indicator that we are already headed in the right direction. However, If we find that we feel lost or confused, there is no condemnation ... we simply course correct, return to peace and find direction.

HOW DO WE FIND WHERE WE ARE?

LOCATING where we are is not difficult but it does take an honest look into our lives, our thoughts, our motives and actions. We must be willing to open up and lay aside our defensive posture so that God and His Word can take us where we need to be.

Proverbs 2:1-4 My son, if you accept my word and store up my commands within you, ²turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding ³indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure ...

WHAT 8 THINGS DOES PROVERBS 2:1-4 LIST AS OUR PART IN OBTAINING WISDOM ?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

We can all probably look at that list and see something we are good at doing and also something we need to improve at. Take a moment to ponder this and pray for God to begin to ignite the fire in you of a seeker of Him as Lord, His Word & Wisdom.

Proverbs 2:5-8 NIV

⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

⁸ for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

God has given us His Word so that we can continually store up road maps (commands) to navigate through any situation. In God’s Word we find Wisdom and Peace, they are inseparable sisters & the tools needed for spiritual location. Prov. 2:5-8 lists the benefits of wisdom in your life. Read Prov. 2:5-8 in the NIV & MSG translations and list the following ...

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF DOING OUR PART?

WHAT BENEFITS DOES GOD GIVE?

We have all heard the stories of the husband and wife who are in the car and lost for hours because someone’s pride refuses to pull over and ask for direction, admit that their way didn’t work and ask someone who can get them to their destination.

If we are in the wrong spot ... We have to stop, find out where we are, where we went wrong, and how to fix it! We may have whole heartedly thought we were doing right and on the right path, but sadly it hasn’t put us in the place God’s peaceful commands would have.

Psalm 119:11 _____ have hidden your word in my heart that __ might not sin against you.

Whose responsibility is it to hide the word in your heart? _____

My life has been littered with times where I didn't own my responsibility to hide His Word in my heart. I can think of a particularly intense time where the enemy was fighting my family on every side and the second the attack came I ran to the Word as if being chased by a lion. Let me tell you, it was a defining experience. God revealed powerful things to my heart. It spawned a love for the Word that I never had before. It equipped me to fight the battle I was facing. But it could have been different. I want to never run back ... I want to run forward and defeat giants sending them in terror. Psalm 119:6 says it best, when we stay on course then we never have regrets in comparing our lives to the Word.

PSALM 119: 1-6 MSG

You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God. You're blessed when you follow his directions, doing your best to find him. That's right—you don't go off on your own; you walk straight along the road he set. You, God, prescribed the right way to live; now you expect us to live it. Oh, that my steps might be steady, keeping to the course you set; Then I'd never have any regrets in comparing my life with your counsel.

The entire chapter of Psalm 119 is devoted to expressing the importance of our relationship to the Word. It is a prayer that the Word have its proper INFLUENCE in our lives, hearts & actions.

What does it look like when the Word has the proper influence in our lives?

I ask that you read the following scriptures and explore what the Word says ...

Psalm 119:20 MSG

My soul is _____ and _____, ravenous!

Insatiable for your nourishing _____

When the Word has its proper influence there is nothing, that will substitute or that will fill its place. It is a deep need and a beautiful dependency that is personal between you, God and His Word ... A Hunger and thirst like no other.

Psalm 119:13 MSG _____ will _____ to _____
_____, all the _____ that comes from
Your mouth.

What we say about our life's journey and circumstance changes when we start breathing over it with the creative Word. You see, this world was nothing. It was void and then He spoke to it commanding life to come forth. Look, Life may seem like it is void sometimes but when you reach into your storehouse and pull out God's creative Word then you are never left with a bleak blank canvas that is without hope or form.

There is Peace in knowing God sees us where we are, and knows how to show us how to get where He wants us to be. I invite us all to pray and take a good God look into our lives. Ask Him to *"Barricade the road that goes nowhere and grace us with clear revelation" ... Psalm 119:29 MSG*

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you”
Phillipians 4:8

Where is your peace at? Peace is in the Word and the Word has its place of influence when it is hidden in our hearts!

The good news is that when the Word is having influence in you ... It will have influence through you! We will talk more about that soon!

I look forward to exploring more about what it takes to LAST with you! This section was the prep work to get our hearts ready for God to speak to us as a group and individually as we dig deeper to see what He will share with us personally. If you have any questions, please message me and I would be happy to address them.

Love,
Lori

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