

Another Day

Biblical reflections for busy teachers



Peace

“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

From time to time God places in your path people, places, books that He uses to speak words of wisdom into your life. This is certainly my experience. In his book of meditations and prayers, *A Silence and a Shouting*, Eddie Askew reflects on the word ‘peace’ and its biblical meaning.

He notes that the prevailing definition of peace the world uses can be couched in negative terms. Peace has come to mean an absence of noise, an absence of war or of strife. Peace is obtained by withdrawing from the world, by separation or by seeking to remove the things that interrupt our ‘peace’.

Askew goes on to contrast this with the biblical concept of peace, of ‘shalom’. God’s peace, he comments, is a wholly positive thing. It flows from within, embracing the whole of our lives and is informed, at every point, by an awareness of God. Peace in our lives is worked out through right relationships; it reflects the Kingdom of God at work.

It is my experience that schools can be chaotic places. As teachers we become very skilled at filtering out background noise but there remain times, days, even weeks, when we feel overwhelmed, where the only way to find peace seems to be to withdraw, to separate ourselves. At those times God reminds us that His peace, the peace that passes all understanding, is right there within us and that we can call on his peace.

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace. Thank you that your shalom, your wholeness, is with me wherever I am, whatever circumstance I face. Release your peace into my heart as I seek to serve you today. Amen.