

Day 42
Will You Sing in the Choir?

Matthew 5:9 (NLT) God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

The pathway to peace with God can only be found through Jesus Christ. That path leads to the cross where old hearts become new, where fresh starts are offered, as we become united with Jesus. The enmity between us and God is taken away and a brand new way of living begins. This new life within us calls us to treat others in the same way we have been treated by the Father. ***“Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (MSG)***

We are invited to live out this new life as sons of God, where we grow to maturity as we work for peace. **A mature life is marked by our willingness to accept our responsibility in making peace with others.** We do not treat people as they deserve to be treated; we treat people how we want to be treated. ***“Treat others as you want them to treat you. This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.” (Matthew 7:12 CEV)*** Maturity is not focused on resolution; meaning, resolving every issue. We understand some issues might not be resolved on this side of eternity. Maturity is focused on reconciliation, because mature people are more interested in re-establishing a relationship than solving every issue.

Mature peacemakers step into turmoil and point to the Prince of peace; they follow Christ' example. They are willing to risk themselves to bring people together and offer forgiveness and truth, where needed. **They waded into the waters of conflict, not because they enjoy or even relish conflict, but because they love people and love to see the Body of Christ function as God intended.** They know that the key to successful relationships is responsibility! So, they accept the responsibility of treating others the right way, even if they are not treated the right way. They know the more people hurt, the more they act in the wrong way, even towards someone who might be trying to help them. Their maturity is demonstrated in how lovingly they respond, even to very difficult people. They do it the Jesus way only, and make no excuses if they come short. They ask and offer forgiveness freely. They look forward to what the God of peace will do in and through them. ***“That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. ‘I took on the troubles of the troubled,’ is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next.” (Romans 15:3-4 MSG)***

I want to not only grow old in God's kingdom, I want to grow up into a fully developed, mature adult that accepts my responsibility and carries out my assignment of peace. I want to function and do my part. How about you; do you desire the same? If you do, I want to invite you to sing in the choir. Yes, you read that right. You need to sing in the choir! Here's the good news about this choir, you can sing even if you don't think you sing well enough. **Because this choir is not about singing in harmony, it is about living in harmony.** We sing the anthem of worship to our Heavenly Father by allowing the Holy Spirit to unite our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ***“May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all.***

Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!” (Romans 15:5-6 MSG)

In this choir, we treat one another like Jesus treats us, and that is our theme song. It is our anthem of praise because we become the answer to the prayer of our King. Jesus prayed for our oneness, and our song is peace. **We are not a good choir; we are God’s choir, so we operate according to the law of love.** We understand that in this choir, there might be a time, or a moment, where one, or a few of us, sings a false note, a note not in harmony with the choir. We make room for that, and we cover our brother or sister in love until they can once again sing in harmony with the rest of us. **There is no room for superstars, soloists or single acts.** We appreciate talent, but our focus is the bond of peace and we can only accomplish that together.

You might not be aware of this, but you are already enlisted in this choir. You see, you get drafted into this choir; you do not choose to simply join. You joined the day you were joined with Christ. The problem is, you have not been singing because you are trying to go at this on your own. You are trying to do a solo act when solo acts are not enlisted in this choir. **There was a solo act once, and he got so full of himself, that the Father had to toss him out of the choir.** I know, in his domain, he loves to have soloists and have them complain about the choir, so that he can interrupt the harmony and distract the choir from fulfilling its purpose and mission. This choir is singularly focused on pleasing the Father and glorifying Christ. This choir thrives on peace with one another, and making peace is its mission. We have values in this choir. Here they are:

“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. 4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.” (Ephesians 4:2-4 NLT) We sing together. We refuse to be full of ourselves. We sing with humility and gentleness. We give room for choir members to develop and grow. We don’t jump on false notes, we lovingly correct them. We fight with all we are worth to stay together, be together, work together, and we bind ourselves together with notes of peace. We sing for the audience of One. The Choir Director is the Holy Spirit and He conducts and directs us, so that we can sing with one heart and one mind. We sing only to the glory of God! ***“And that’s about it, friends. Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure.” (2 Corinthians 13:11 MSG)***

As our anthem rises, may we hear the collective crush of our enemy under our feet. May our God of peace crush the enemy’s influence and manipulation in our lives. May our God of peace crush all things that cause us to fight one another, instead of singing an anthem of praise. May our God of peace release His grace in our hearts and minds, so that we will be united as one in Christ Jesus.

So let us sing for all we are worth, with all we have, and let our song of peace and harmony bring our Father praise...

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.” (Romans 16:20 NLT)

Reflection and Prayer:

- Read and reflect on the following verses and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through God’s Word as you grow and develop in becoming a peacemaker.

- ***“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. 3 And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.” (Matthew 7:1-5 NLT)***
- ***“For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.” (Ephesians 6:15 NLT)***
- ***“Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13 Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NLT)***
- ***“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.” (Romans 5:1-2 NLT)***
- ***“For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17 NLT)***
- ***“Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.” (2 Timothy 2:22 NLT)***
- ***“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15 NLT)***
- ***“Now, may the Lord himself, the Lord of peace, pour into you his peace in every circumstance and in every possible way. The Lord’s tangible presence be with you all.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16 TPT)***