

Hebrews 12:14 *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”*

We are commanded by God to live peaceably with everyone. We therefore as Christians owe it a duty to be at peace with those around us.

We don't necessarily need to repay any hurtful deed directed toward us. To quench a raging fire, you don't have to jump into the flames but simply put it out.

Whenever we are mistreated or slandered, it's time to act wisely and in a gentle way.

We should not retaliate with the weapon of silence nor seek revenge. An uncontrolled TONGUE is responsible for setting the course of our lives on fire:

James 3:5 "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

Knowing this, let's control our tongues by evaluating each thought and guarding each word we say. If control our tongues and use words with restraint, we will enjoy peace.

1 Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensure it."

Staying calm at all times is the best way to avoid the annoyance of godless enemies. Being humble is a sure way to drown out all taunting

noise of the enemies. It gives us poise in the midst of the world's alarms. This way we offset the noise of the world around us.

When we are annoyed by the sneering remarks and slanderous words of those around us, we ought to respond positively. Instead of cracking down on them and silencing them, we should be gracious in our attitude toward them. We should be kind, considerate and loving in our words and actions toward them.

Returning evil with evil will always result into conflict, which eventually leads to lack of peace, and it may create resentment. He who harbours resentment will have a never-ending and profitless job.

In fact, he is the one who will suffer most.

Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Try to be at peace with all men everywhere, at all times. Being humble does not mean a sign of weakness. Our Lord Jesus was humble and gentle (*Matthew 11:28*). One who is humble is always calm and of few

words. He does not gossip about other people's matters.

Phillipians 4:5 "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

As Christians, we should guide well our tongues to avoid getting in trouble with it. We can accomplish much good with kind, thoughtful and wise words. Sometimes we accomplish more by not saying anything. When we are wronged, we shouldn't take revenge, instead, we should reward evil with good, and go right on living for the Lord. As aggressively pursue peace with other people, God will bless our efforts. He has promised to make our enemies be at peace with us. And so shall we experience peace and a life of calm.

Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

In as much as we make every effort to be at peace with all people, let's also pursue holiness, without which no one shall see God.

Shalom.

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