



1. Read Romans 5:1. We have peace with God when we become a believer, did you experience this peace when you accepted Christ? How did it affect you? Some people say there is a “God shaped” vacuum in all of us that is not filled until you become a believer, do you think that is true? Where do you think it comes from?
2. Read Philippians 4:6,7. This verse says that when we pray, we experience God’s peace. Why do you think this is true? Can you give a personal example when prayer has brought you peace? What do you think it means when it says that God’s peace guards our hearts and minds?
3. Pastor Rick said we are ready to run when our soul is filled with gratitude. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says that we should give thanks in all circumstances. Why do you think us being grateful is such a big thing to God? What is something that you are extremely grateful for in your life? What can we do to increase our gratitude?
4. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. The second thing we must do to be prepared to run is to fix our eyes on Jesus. What do you think it means to “fix your eyes”? How do we do this? What tends to be something in your life that keeps you from fixing your eyes on Jesus?
5. The next thing we must do to put on the shoes of the gospel of peace is to GO with the gospel and share it with others. Have you ever tried this? How did it go? If you were to make a plan to share the gospel message with people in your life, what would be the parts of your plan?
6. Read Philippians 1:27. What do you think Paul meant when he says we should conduct our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ? We know that how we live does not determine if we go to heaven or not, but how does it affect our ability to share the gospel with others?

ANSWERS

- 1. As part of our creation in the image of God, there are some things that we are “hard wired” to know as humans. We have an inborn sense that there is something out there that is greater than what we see. We have a conscience, a rudimentary sense of what is right and wrong. These are very undeveloped when we are born into this world but there is a desire to find out more about them and where they come from. It is the basis for any person who is seeking God, even if they do not know it is God they are seeking. God has placed this into everyone and you must on purpose ignore these. Atheists must be taught to be atheists. When we come to Christ, he fills in all of the missing blanks and we get the sense of peace that we have found what our hearts have always been searching for.*
- 2. When we pray, we begin to see what we are praying about from God’s perspective: we are placing it into the hands of the one person who is never worried because He is in total control of every circumstance. So if God is handling it, why should I stress over it? God’s peace guards our minds by removing the thoughts that everything is out of control in my life and there is nothing I can do about it: we have put it into the hands of the one who can, wants to, and will handle it in a way that brings glory to Him.*
- 3. Being grateful is such a big thing because if you do not think about or dwell on how you have been blessed by God then you will not give Him the credit He deserves and you will begin to take Him for granted. An ungrateful person is a selfish person. Gratitude is what continues to motivate us to serve God when we constantly keep at the front of our minds what He has done for us. It is what keeps us from believing that life is only about me. Showing gratitude to others also motivates them to continue to serve God. We all want to feel appreciated.*
- 4. Fixing your eyes is a way to say fix your attention on. The illustration used in Hebrews is the way a runner fixes their focus on the finish line, they have tunnel vision and do not let anything that is going on around them distract from their focus. The way we fix our eyes on Jesus begins by daily spending time in prayer and reading the Bible and then continuing on during the day to have a continual conversation with God. Examining everything that comes into our lives from the perspective of “What does God say about this?” is how we keep our focus on Jesus. There are many things that this world puts in front of us to take our focus off of Jesus and put it on ourselves. That is what Satan works to do to us, to move our focus off of Christ.*
- 5. Any plan that has as its goal to share the gospel with others must begin with prayer. Prayer for yourself and prayer for the unsaved people. Secondly, any plan must include preparation. Are you prepared to share Christ? Do you know the gospel message and what you believe intimately so that you are clear about what the message of the gospel includes? If not, you might want to attend a “How to Share Your Faith” class.*
- 6. In the King James Version of the Bible, Philippians 1:27 says “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:” Conversation means “manner of life” and it says your life should be “becoming” to the gospel of Christ. This is an old English word that we do not use anymore. It has the meaning of “that dress is very becoming to you” which means it enhances your appearance. Our lifestyle should enhance the gospel, it should make it attractive to others. That is what this verse means. If you are kind, that enhances the message of the gospel, people will listen to kind people. If you are a jerk, it detracts from the message because it makes it so no one will listen to you no matter how good the message is. If you are a hypocrite, if you do not live the way people think a Christian should live, it does not change the gospel message but it does change whether a person will listen to you as you give the gospel.*