



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Now that the Democratic and Republican conventions have ended, despite the eloquence (or lack thereof) from some of the speakers, we are confronted with the reality that none of the candidates have brought us peace. Both parties have suggested that they can fix our situation. Much like a doctor who attempts to diagnose the problem without seeing the patient, they seem to have suggested solutions without knowing the real problems.

To understand what it is we are looking for, we must first understand what we need. If you listened to our politicians, you might believe we need economic satisfaction, resolved by increasing the minimum wage. Others might find satisfaction in knowing our enemies will be kept at bay and perhaps even exterminated. Some feel they need to know their extravagant college loans have been dismissed. Still others need to know the problem of illegal border crossings will cease.

In our search for the one thing that will fix our problem, our lives have modeled the lyrics of the popular Rolling Stones song from the 70's, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction!" The refrain goes like this:

I can't get no satisfaction.
I can't get no satisfaction.
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try. . . .

Many of us feel like the Rolling Stones in our search for satisfaction, because what we are really searching for in difficult times is peace. Every quest for satisfaction found in a secular worldview leads us to disappointment, cause we try, and we try, and we try, and we try! What we are really searching for in difficult times is peace. In every quest for satisfaction we can substitute the word "peace!"

But what do we mean when we talk about peace? Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I

give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The Greek word "shalom" is used in the text. It means experiencing the highest good, enjoying the very best, possessing all the inner good possible. It means wholeness and soundness. It means prosperity in the widest sense, especially prosperity in the spiritual sense of having a soul that blossoms and flourishes.

Don't misunderstand this verse: it is incorrect doctrine to believe that coming to Jesus means everything will be alright in this world. As believers, we will sometimes feel like we've been added to Satan's hit list as we face one problem after another. Yet Jesus spoke of a peace that is foreign to the peace of this world. In John 16:33, He reminded His disciples, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

There are two kinds of peace reflected in Scripture:
1. The peace of the world. It is a peace of escapism which avoids trouble. It refuses to face challenges, and is dependent on how we feel. This peace is sought through pleasure, the absence of trouble, positive thinking, or the denial of problems. It can even be sought through a position or title such as the office of the President of the United States. All of these will create only a temporary peace.

This is not quite what Christ is saying. Instead, the alternative is 2. The peace of Christ and of God. This is, first, a peace deep within the believer's heart, resulting from a transformed mind (Romans 12:2). It is composure, a peace that is calm in the face of bad circumstances and situations. It is more than feelings — even more than attitude and thought. It is the peace independent of conditions and environment; the peace which no sorrow, danger, suffering, or experience can take away. . . .

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Debra Hest

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION: IT STARTS AT HOME

I almost always drive the speed limit. I'm not hard to spot on the road, because I'm usually the car everyone else is passing. (I've been passed by everything from BMW 3 Series's to Toyota Prius's — not exactly something I'm proud of.) Why don't I keep up with traffic? Because of a simple lesson my parents taught me when I started driving: you don't want to get pulled over by a policeman.

These words of warning have been enough to keep me from being pulled over — all but once, that is. This experience left a lasting impression on me, but not for the reason you might think. As I pulled into a lot in route to a restaurant, I was surprised to see flashing lights behind me. I slowed down, pulled over to the side of the road, and waited for the police car to pass. It didn't.

After a few moments, the policeman walked over to my car and asked to see my drivers' license. I presented this to him, and he explained I had turned into the lane during a restricted time. I remembered seeing the sign, but hadn't paid much attention to it. I was guilty as charged, and deserved a ticket.

The policeman went back to his vehicle for several minutes, and returned with a warning not to repeat the offense again. That was it; I was free to go. I thanked him and went on my way. The dialogue was cordial, and the exchange uneventful. That's because of another lesson my parents taught me: If you do get pulled over by a policeman, always be respectful. I was, and my first experience was a good one.

THE INFLUENCER'S LENS

As I reflect on my experience in light of the recent clashes between policemen and African-Americans, I am reminded of the power of perspective. The lens through which we view our world is often colored by our influencers. Two of my greatest influencers have been my parents. They have taught me about the natural consequences of poor choices. They have also taught me when justly confronted about my wrongdoing to take full responsibility. This is only because they, in turn, have been influenced by their life experiences and the Word of God.

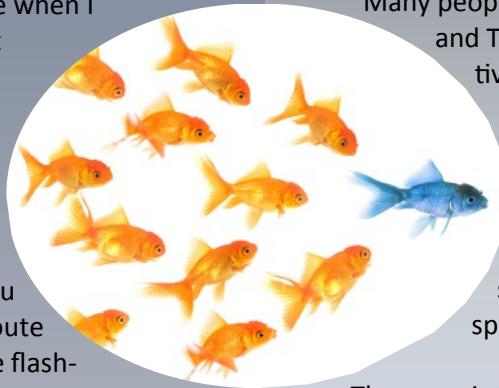
Every human being who has ever breathed Earth's oxygen has an influencer. That person, thing, or value system stamps an indelible impression upon us during our forma-

tive years from ages 1-22. Where do we spend the majority of those years? At home. This is where my formal education in the School of Life began, and the training has served me well.

CHOOSE YOUR INFLUENCERS WISELY

Many people look to what's trending on Facebook and Twitter or the news media for perspective on current events; the wise look to objective influencers who will present the truth in a balanced, unvarnished manner. Where do we learn which influencers to follow? Primarily at home. The quality of our personal, social, and cognitive development speaks volumes for our upbringing.

The same is true of the quality of our spiritual development. At home, the values taught from the pulpit are put in a real-world context where [>>> Keep Reading](#)



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