

Faith Fight Podcast - Stop the Violence

This episode may hit close to home for many of you. In some of our communities, there is too much violence with guns or other weapons. It has to stop and young lives need to be saved. This episode will go over what the bible says about stopping the violence and we will pray and declare peace over our communities at the end.

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (MAYBE NOT) - **Matthew 5:38-39***

When we are wronged, often our first reaction is to get even. Instead Jesus said we should do good to those who wrong us. Our desire should not be to keep score, but to love and forgive. Now, this is not natural... but God can give us the strength to love as he does. Instead of praying for vengeance, pray for those who hurt you.

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. - **Matthew 5:21-22 ESV***

Killing is a terrible sin, but anger is a great sin also because it violates God’s command to love. Anger in this case refers to a seething, brooding bitterness against someone. It is a dangerous emotion that always threatens to leap out of control. This is the anger that gets the best of people and causes arguments and disagreements to end up very badly. Our prayer should be that the people in our communities will be able to have self-control in whatever situation that they come into so that they don’t escalate situations to violence.

*“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”- **Romans 12:17-18 NIV***

This verse is telling us not to repay someone wrong when you have been wronged. It only starts a cycle that causes more people to be hurt and for violence to continue. This verse summarizes Christian living. If we love someone the way that Christ loves us, we should be willing to forgive. We will pray at the end of this episode that our friends in school or community or our family will strive to live at peace with everyone.

*Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. - **1 Peter 3:9 ESV***

In our fallen world, it's often deemed acceptable by some to tear down people verbally or to get back at them if we feel hurt. In God's kingdom, revenge is unacceptable behavior. Pray that people will not tear down each other verbally and rise above the temptation to respond in this way. This verse says that there is a blessing when you can do this.

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. - Colossians 3:19 ESV

Paul was speaking to husbands on how they should treat their wives. He was encouraging them to love them and not to be harsh with them. Domestic violence can take on different forms but it is not right in any form. From time to time there will be difference in opinions or disagreements in relationships, but we will pray that men and women will love each other and exercise self-control and wisdom if things get too heated.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. - James 1:19-20 ESV

This is how we should approach situations where there is a potential for a fight or violence. Often times there is some misunderstanding. If people can honestly approach the situation and listen to gain understanding and not just to give their opinion on how they think the situation should be there will be less arguments and fighting in society.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." - John 10:10 NIV

It's the devil's agenda to steal, kill, and destroy everything that is good and born out of the love of God. This is why some of our communities, schools, and families are plagued with violence and why some of these situations end up bloody or worse. As Christians, it's our duty to walk in love of Christ. As we do this, we become vessels that Jesus can work through to carry His message of abundant life to others around us.

Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. - Isaiah 60:18 ESV

This is a verse from Isaiah and it has prophetic applications in our days today. We can pray and declare over our schools and communities that violence has to stop. That the devastation and destruction of lives must cease. We need to declare that our communities will be a place where people will see salvation and give God praise.

And with that being said, let's pray.

Weekly Prayer Plan – Stop the Violence

How to Use this Template:

Download and save this document to begin using at the beginning (Monday) of every week. Every Week will have different bible verses to meditate on based on the Faith Fight Podcast episode topic for that week. Determine the time and place that you will devote to prayer. The below structure is set for one hour and is only used as a guide. You can adjust your timing if necessary.

Time: _____

Place: _____

5 min – Drawing Near To God

5 min – Confession

10 min – God-Centered Petitions

10 min – Intercessory Prayer

10 min – Personal Petitions

15 min – Meditation

5 min – Praise, Thanksgiving & Closing

1. **DRAWING NEAR TO GOD** - Matt. 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

God the Father is the focus of all our prayers. We should never forget what a privilege it is to bend our knees on earth and reach almighty God in heaven.

2. **CONFESSION** - Matt. 6:12 “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”

When we repent and forgive others, we maintain fellowship with God. But if we hold grudges, that fellowship is broken. God loves to answer our prayers when the lines of communication are not disrupted.

3. **GOD CENTERED PETITIONS** Matt 6:10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

Prayer should reflect a desire to align ourselves with God’s goals and purposes, not to get Him to follow our plans.

4. **PERSONAL PETITIONS** Matt 6:11 “Give us today our daily bread.”

We are dependent upon the Lord for our needs and He wants us to come to Him with our requests.

5. **MEDITATION Joshua 1:8** “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Meditation is thinking about the word of God to understand what it means in the context of the scripture and how it can apply to your life today. The Word of God is powerful enough to still be relevant in your life today even though it was written thousands of years ago.

Read through the scripture passages for today as listed below:

Meditational Verses

Monday: **Matthew 5:21-22**

Tuesday: **Matthew 5:38-48**

Wednesday: **Romans 12:17-18**

Thursday: **Colossians 3**

Friday: **1 Peter 3:8-22**

Saturday: **John 10:10 NIV**

Sunday: **Isaiah 60:18 ESV**

Once you have read the scripture for today, write down your answer to the questions below or any other insight/revelation that you receive in your prayer journal.

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

6. **PRAISE & THANKSGIVING 1 John 5:14-15** “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

We can end our prayer time with confidence that God has heard our prayer and will answer in His perfect timing. Demonstrate your faith in Him by showing thanks before you see the answer to your prayers.