



Say Hello to Shalom

Truth about peace

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For every language in the world there is a particular way to say "hello." For example, "hola" is 'hello' in Spanish. "Ni hao" is Chinese for 'greetings.' "Bonjour" is how the French say 'good day.' And, "shalom" is 'hello' in Hebrew.

Like saying "aloha" in Hawaii, wishing someone "shalom" carries many meanings. Shalom is used in Israel for "hello" and "good bye" and "peace." Isn't it amazing that in Israel, a country plagued by terrorists, the term most-often used is Shalom? Regardless of settlement pullouts and suicide bombers the desire and aspiration of every Israelite is peace. This hope to live in peace is the desire of all mankind worldwide. In this quest for peace, soldiers have died and kings have conquered. Yet true shalom is greater than just the absence of war and it is more than a friendly greeting. It is better than a fleeting feeling of happiness. Shalom is the central message of the Bible, the reason the Messiah came, and the answer to the all of the problems in the universe.

By using the phrase "peace" so loosely in the modern world, the true Biblical understanding of the word has been lost. "Peace" in English doesn't adequately describe the Hebrew term shalom. Genuine Shalom is the presence of the Holy One. This Shalom is literally His "wholeness" manifest.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines "shalom" as, "to be well, happy, complete, in good health, prosperous, to be whole, and wholly." The events of Luke, chapter 8 shed some interesting light on this. "

But as He went the people thronged Him. And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, came

behind Him, and touched the border of His garment; and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Y'shua said, 'Who touched Me?' When all denied, Peter and they that were with Him said, 'Master, the multitude throng Thee and press Thee, and sayest thou, Who touched Me?' And Y'shua said, 'Somebody hath touched me; for I perceive that virtue has gone out of me.' And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately. And He said unto her, 'Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made the whole;'” Luke 8:42-48.

In this story, the woman with the issue of blood received her healing as she touched the tzitzit (fringes) upon the garment of the Messiah. Her faith led her to reach out for the Savior, and the end result was healing. Not only did the flow of blood stop; she was also completely made whole. Don't miss this. She was healed and made whole. She had found the Messiah. The void in her soul was now overflowing with shalom. Her life was now filled with Him. The woman had come face to face with the Prince of Peace and she would never be the same.

By the power of Shalom a person can walk in faith amidst the troubles of life. Through His Shalom one can make it though a bad day or a string of terrible events. The book of Ephesians proves how this is possible. "He is our Shalom, Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us," Ephesians 2: 14. A person's shalom is the presence of the Master. It is Him. Nothing more and nothing less.