

# The Need for Peace

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Leviticus 3.
- B. Peace is a fundamental need.

## II. The peace offering.

A. The burnt offering and the meal offering precede the peace offering—love and enrichment must come before peace. (Galatians 5)

B. No life is proper without the peace of God.

- 1. This is peace in the midst of trouble.
- 2. The absence of peace is a troubled heart, which can result in physical difficulties.
- 3. Mary chose the one thing that she needed over Martha—peace.

C. Distinctives of the peace offering.

- 1. It could be either a male or a female. This looks to man in his existential relationship.
- 2. All the fat was to be consumed upon the altar.
  - a. This demonstrates that life is sacred to God and for Him to control.
  - b. Life is not to be treated lightly.
  - c. The richness of life is from God.
- 3. Only the breast and the thigh were to be eaten. (Leviticus 7:28-34)
  - a. This demonstrated that they were related to Him.
  - b. God cares about us and will work things out for us in His own time.
  - c. Christ is our peace. (John 14, Ephesians 2, Philippians 4)
- 4. The sacrifice could be eaten on the day it was offered or on the second day if it was an expression of thanksgiving, but not on the third day.
  - a. There must not be a distinction between the sacrifice and the feeling of peace.
  - b. One must not depend on the feeling of peace—he must depend on the one who gives peace.

**Application questions:**

1. When have you found it difficult to attain peace?

---

---

2. Why is it important to have knowledge of peace and not just the feeling of it?

---

---

3. How would you counsel someone seeking more peace in his or her life based upon the passage? Explain.

---

---