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Peace? Whats that? Not a concept that I understood in my life growing up. I grew up living a life of performance driven, expectations, low self esteem, and controlling tendencies. Was I good enough, skinny enough, smart enough, tall enough, did I even belong here? Am i valuable? Grew up where my parents used vulgar words to describe people that were not Caucasian. Was I one of those people? Parents even threatened to put me  childrens home. I felt like an object, not a human, not loved. I felt like and orphan.  Having to run all these things through my mimd was physically amd emotionally draining. contemplated suicide once or twice. Oh, lets not forget about the "what if" game. What if I fail? What if I dont measure up to others expectations? what if they dont like me? these are the thoughts that went through my head and continuously try to creep back in even to this day.

A pattern of pessimism, worry, and distress set in at a very early age to the point where pessimism seemed normal and failure seemed like my only option, untill ....

I met Jesus. untill I expierenced the physical, intellectual, amd spiritual reality of his Love, peace, grace and mercy. The Prince of Peace, The one who commands us not to worry or be anxious, but to trust in him. Jesus tells us in Isaiah 26:3 that if we keep our mind on him, that he will keep us in perfect peace. So, there is perfect peace made available from The Prince of Peace! What a gift! He has shown me that my identity does not does not depend on how I feel, but on the truth of who he says I am in his word. He has shown me that my worry stems from a sense of control, but he reminds me of his soverignty. He reigns, not me. This peace is available for those who are in Christ, this is made available when we focus on Jesus. Those who are not in Christ, this is available when you repent and believe the gospel. Surrendering your life to Christs lordship and comitting to following him. Its like writing your name on a blank check, and handing it to him, then allow him to do whatever he wants regarldess of what it costs you. Are you willing? Are you willing to exchange your wants, desires for God himself, not just what he can give you? Are you ready to seek his face and not just his hand? Can you really say to live is Christ and to die is gain.

That is the decision before you today. My decision was to repent and believe the gospel and expierence a peace that surpasses all understanding when I place my trust in him! I dont always get it right, but I dont have to.. Remember who is in control! As a friend of mine calls it, the irresponsibility of the christian life because there is not much we can do or have done to earn it. Rest, be still, be forgiven, enjoy. I hope you will make the same decision and expierence The Prince of Peace.