Peace With God

Finding peace with God is a personal and meaningful journey, and I encourage everyone to pursue it. But before we can understand what it means to have peace with God, we must recognize that, in our natural state, we are enemies of God because we inherited a sinful nature from our first parents, Adam and Eve. **Romans 5:12:** *"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned."* We are born with a disposition to please ourselves and to be our own gods. This rebellious nature sets us at odds with God, because His just nature can't overlook our sin. **Romans 3:23:** *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* and **Romans 6:23:** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* We can't create peace with God because our best efforts are nothing compared to His holiness. **Isaiah 64:6:** *"For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our wrongdoings, like the wind, take us away."* Hence, in our sinful state, we cannot be reconciled to God or have peace with God, no matter how hard we try. People protest against this fact, saying, *"I'm not at war with God."* But we are, though we may not be aware of it. God calls it war because of our rebellion against Him. We don't do His will. We haven't yielded our lives to Him as Lord and Savior. Again, protest: I am part of this denomination; I'm a member of the church; I am a good and decent person; I give to the needy. But the Bible says we don't even know our hearts. Our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked. **Jeremiah 17:9-10:** *"The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, To give to each person according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds."* **So how do we achieve peace with God?** God took the initiative to pursue peace with us by sending His Son to earth. Jesus lived a perfect life. His crucifixion paid for the sins of all who would trust in Him, and His resurrection guarantees our justification and salvation. **John 1:12:** *"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."* **Romans 5:1:** *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Peace with God also frees us from the fear of death, transforming death from an end into a passage to God's presence. Our last breath on earth will be our first breath in heaven. Our hope is secure in the knowledge that Jesus has done all that was necessary to make us right with God. Right now, the Holy Spirit lives within us, guiding, convicting, comforting, and reminding us of Jesus' completed sacrifice on our behalf. Praise Jesus and rest in the peace of God.