

Peace is a Five Letter Word

Recently, the world seems to be turning upside down. From fires in California, to hurricanes that have harshly impacted places like Texas and the islands in the Caribbean, to conflicts with Russia and Korea. Not to mention people are frightened with terrorist attacks happening left and right, gun violence, and more. Times like these leave people wondering how long peace can remain, or if it is already gone never to return. Peace is defined as freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility. But, it is so much more than that.

For me, peace is being able to walk down the streets and going out into the world without fear trailing behind like a black cloud. It is being able to sleep in your home safely, sure that nothing will happen while you are asleep and that you have total privacy. It is closing a store at the end of a long day and not having to stress about whether it will be robbed or not. Peace is also about people. It is about people respecting and accepting one another. It is knowing that whomever you talk to will treat you fairly and respect you. Your neighbors and family, as well as the rest of the world, accepting you for who you are, is peace to me. But that is just one aspect of it.

In addition, to me peace is that brief period after a natural disaster in which people are brought closer together. Despite any destruction, the worst things bring people to help each other. They end up socializing with those they'd never stopped to get to know before. It is also caring about individuals more than money or objects. Peace is spending a nice afternoon with your friends and family or going on a trip with them. It is helping your neighbor with the groceries or listening to the stories of an elder in your building.

Most importantly for me, however, peace is living in a country that allows you to share your thoughts and opinions with others. Having laws that protect you, rights, and freedom is peace to me. I could never imagine living in a country like Syria, in which people are frequently killed and buildings are constantly being demolished due to their civil war. But even in safe countries, issues of racism and sexism are still present. In the most peaceful world I can imagine, everyone works together and gets along whether they are male or female, Mexican or Canadian; they would not discriminate or hate based on race, gender, or sexuality. Who knows, maybe some day it will truly be like that, it will truly be peaceful.