

5 Promises of Baptism

A SERIES ABOUT WHO WE ARE CALLED TO BE

Strive

We are to strive—to venture, to exert, to give it our best—so that we can experience and live out a glimpse of the promised gifts in baptism of justice and peace. We can never know the fullness of justice and peace in a broken, strife-ridden world, but we can get a glimpse.

Justice in the Bible

Justice in the Bible is rooted in God's action toward humanity. God is a just God, establishing a right relation with God's people. Our relationship with God, rooted in baptism, is reflected in our relationship with others. We are to strive for justice because God is just.

Why does the goal of justice require sacrifice, suffering, and struggle? What specific injustice might you want to strive to end? What prevents you from working for justice and peace?



John 13:1-17

Striving for justice and peace becomes a realized gift of discipleship as we discover a God-inspired love for neighbor which will not allow us to be deaf, silent, or apathetic. The gift comes in being driven to God for courage, wisdom, and compassion. The gift comes when we face injustice and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak the truth in love. The gift comes in being so aligned with the crucified Christ that his love fills and compels us to love our neighbor beyond what we thought would be humanly possible. As we love our neighbor, we are drawn into their story and their pain. Our voices are offered for those who cannot speak on their own behalf.

What does it mean to you to strive for justice and peace on earth?
How might striving for justice and peace bring you closer to Christ?