Mind Games
Isaiah 26.1-9, Genesis 28.16-17

In working our way through his book, we have seen Isaiah depressed by the painful realities of his people's current situation of dealing with the horrors of being overrun by an invading army. We have also read of his excitement at the glorious prospect of the future in God's perfect world. However, between these two extremes lies the settled disposition of patient, trustful waiting to which the people of God must return to again and again. It is to be our hallmark as we live out our lives in this world as it is.

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.   Isaiah 26.3

A. God promises us peace through the trials of life.

B. The key to experiencing God's peace begins in our minds.

> *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*   Romans 12.2

C. Isaiah gives us some clues on how we can transform our thinking.

1. How bad do you want it? It begins with **DESIRING GOD** .

...your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you.   Isaiah 26.8-9

2. Make sure your beliefs about God are **ACCURATE.**

- God is permanent and unmoving.
  ...the Lord....is the Rock eternal. v4

- God loves me.
  Let them see your zeal for your people... v11

- Everything I've become or accomplished is from God.
  ...all that we have accomplished you have done for us. v12

3. Learn the value of **PATIENCE** and **WAITING.**

*Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, **we wait for you ...** v8*

4. See every place as an opportunity to **ENCOUNTER** God.

The example of Jacob — Genesis 28.10-17

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."   v16-17

When we realize God is **IN THIS PLACE** we are more apt to **EXPERIENCE PEACE**.

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

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