

George - Pastor Gary – MARY TESTIMONY

I want to talk to you today - about The Peace of God

It's been less than a Year & a Half since we taught TWO message on the Peace of God in our Spiritual Battle series

But that's Long Enough – we need it again today

The Word - PEACE – Shalom (Hebrew) & Eirene (Grk)

Is a HUGE Word in the Bible

1 Bible dictionary referred to the concept of PEACE as “*One of the most prominent theological concepts in the Bible*”

But the concept of PEACE – is used to address so many THINGS in the Bible, & so MANY areas of our life

I need to define the SPECIFIC Peace
That we want to talk about today

PEACE: *The overriding and prevailing sense of well-being, contentment, and wholeness that comes only from the presence and power of God, and does not fluctuate based on circumstances.*

Who needs some?

Let's Pray

If you're visiting with us today

We normally teach Expositional, Vs-by-Vs Messages
But today I'm doing something a little different

This msg is fashioned from our "Scripture By Topic" on CN.ORG
It's on the home page now – or Under "Resources" later

These Scripture by Topic pages

we've always used for Daily Devotions (which are also there)
& for being Transformed by the Renewing of our Mind

& so – IN that Vain – Today I want to talk about
the Supernatural Peace of God

The Peace of God - that will Guard us, Protect us, & Guide us,
thru ANY situation or ANY circumstance in this life

You know I'm not really big on talking
THEORETICAL or INTELLECTUAL

I want to talk to you today about the Peace of God
that is RELATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL

I want to talk about a Supernatural & Relational Peace of God
that will Actually CHANGE your Life

RIGHT in the midst of your Circumstances
whatever they may be

But Listen, Pls - I don't want to put a GUILT TRIP on Anyone

I don't know ANY Christian
who walks around in Perfect Peace all the time

Because the Peace of God is CONTRARY to our Human Nature
Which is WHY we need Continual Encouragement in this area

So let's NOT Beat ourselves up
About NOT YET walking in the Peace of God – Okay?

God has given every believer the opportunity to HAVE
The Peace of God – to LIVE in it, to WALK in it

But God loves you just the same if you NEVER take him up on it
Now – Let me make this clear;

The Bible Clearly Spells out Two “TYPES of PEACE”
when it comes to our Relationship with Jesus Christ

There is Peace WITH God
& there is The Peace of God

Peace WITH God means you have STOPPED being God's Enemy
By putting your Full Faith in Jesus Christ - for Salvation
& being made “RIGHT” with God

Romans 5:1 (NLT)

1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Peace WITH God – is our Salvation in Jesus Christ

& Pls hear me - there is NO WAY to move to “The Peace of God”
Until you have - Peace WITH God

The ONLY Condition to you having
Peace WITH God – is your FAITH in Jesus Christ

HOWEVER – Learning to Walk in the Peace of God
Is something we LEARN to Do

It is MORE Conditional – than just Believing in Jesus Christ

So – Let me Lay out Two MAJOR Conditions
To LEARNING to Walk in the Peace of God

#1) The Peace of God - is Available ONLY
in a Very Real - DAILY Relationship with Jesus Christ

This Peace is NOT something
That WE generate - It's God's Peace

& it comes ONLY thru a Close DAILY Relationship with Jesus

AND – By Focusing that Close Daily Relationship
ON Obtaining the Peace of God in your life
Whenever that NEEDS to BE the Focus

#2) LIVING in the Peace of God Is Fully DEPENDENT
on the Power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

One of the **Largest Problems** in Christianity

Is us **Trying SO HARD** to Follow Jesus – **IN our own Strength**

You Can't be **Saved** – *in your own strength*

You Can't **Experience** the **Peace of God** - *in your own strength*

We Must **KNOW** - **It** is the **Life & Power of God** – Living in us
(**IN** the **person** of the **Holy Spirit**)

that **ENABLES** us to **WALK** in the **Peace of God**

Galatians 5:22 (NLT)

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace . . .

It is **The Holy Spirit** in our Lives

That **PRODUCES** the **Supernatural Peace of God**

Which is why **EPH 5:18** says (in the original)

Be constantly Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

& so – to **Grow** in the **Peace of God**

We've got to be **Constantly Asking** God

To **FILL us** with the **Holy Spirit**

So – **#1)** The **Peace of God** - is **Available ONLY**
thru a **Real DAILY Relationship** with **Jesus Christ**

#2) **LIVING** in the **Peace of God** Is Fully **DEPENDENT**
on the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit** in our lives

Finally – I’m going to **TRY Something** today
that I’ve **NEVER Done** before

After I **read** the Verses we’re **going** to **use** today
I’d like to go ahead & **PRAY those vs’s**, right **after** I read them

& my **HOPE** is – it would **give** you a “**Feel**” (an idea)
Of how **YOU** can **pray** these (& other) Vs’s

As you **Learn** how to **Walk** in The **Peace of God**, ok?

<p>& - <u>AS</u> I pray – you <u>don’t have</u> to <u>close</u> your <u>eyes</u> or anything Just <u>look</u> at the <u>scripture</u> - & Listen to me pray</p>

Let’s **START today** – in **Romans Ch 6**

Romans 6:13 (NLT)

13 . . . give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life . . .

God, I WILL give myself completely to you, TODAY. Because I was DEAD, but now you have Given me NEW LIFE – Lord, please teach me, & enable me, to walk in that New Life – in an ever-increasing way, as I learn to LIVE in You.

You **HAVE NEW LIFE** In Jesus Christ (**Positionally**)
Including the **ABILITY** to **Walk**
in the **Supernatural Peace of God**

BUT - You still must learn **HOW** – to **WALK** in it

TURN to Romans 8:6– God says it's an Issue of MIND-CONTROL !!

Romans 8:6 (nlt) (turn)

***6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death.
But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.***

*Lord, I know that I can still ALLOW my sin nature to control my mind -
& I know that if I do, it will lead to destruction in my life - & so Lord, I
CHOOSE, I Commit, to allow you, Holy Spirit, to control my mind,
leading me to life & peace. Show me Lord, how to allow your Holy
Spirit, thru your Word, to control what my mind is SET on.*

Rom 6 says - We OWN this New Life “Positionally”

Rom 8 says - We Still have to RE-TRAIN our MIND

To Allow the Spirit to Control it – INSTEAD of our FLESH

& we've got to KEEP doing it

Until our Mind THINKS Differently

Until we REACT Differently

**Until you THINK According to your NEW LIFE in Christ
Instead of your Old Life in the Flesh**

**Until you REACT According to your NEW LIFE in Christ
Instead of your OLD LIFE in the Flesh**

**Until we are walking in The Spirit,
instead of in the Flesh**

These are New Life Traits
that must be **LEARNED - & PRACTICED**

GAL 5 (2nd half), & **COL 3** (1st half) – Great place to start
AND – Get a **Discipler**

Cont'g - In **John Ch 14** Jesus is in what we **generally** call
"The Last Supper" (Jn 13 - Jn 17)

This is a **Massive & Critical Teaching**
Jesus was **giving** during that time in the **Upper Room**

& in **Jn Ch 14** Jesus is **Promising** to **SEND US** The **Holy Spirit**
When he leaves

& we read in John 14:25–26 (NLT)

25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you
(referring to (ultimately) all of his teaching).

26 But when the Father sends the Advocate (The Helper) as my representative (in my name) - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

Lord, that's what we need. We need to absorb, to take in, all that you've taught us in your Word. & then Lord, we need The Advocate, The Holy Spirit to bring your Word alive inside us, to give it the Power to Transform us, to be our Helper and our Teacher, & to bring to our remembrance the things you've taught us

I **Promise** you, **IN God's Word** – is ALL we need
to Walk in the **"Peace of God"**

But we must **begin** by **ABSORBING God's Word**

By **taking it in**

By **making** it a **DAILY part** of our lives

& **God** has **sent** us The **Helper**, The **Holy Spirit**

to **light His Word** on **FIRE** inside of us

In **order** to **Transform Our Lives**

So that - we can **begin to LIVE**

in **the Subject** of the Very **Next Vs**

John 14:27 (NLT)

27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Lord your peace IS a Gift, and Lord, we need it. We spend far too much time, troubled, and afraid. And Lord, we REPENT from turning to the world, looking for a peace that the World Cannot give. Lord, you ARE our Peace, Jehovah Shalom. We look to you alone, to receive the Peace of mind & heart that we need.

Let's **Turn** over to **Jn Ch 16**

Jesus is **wrapping** up this Long teaching

That we call the **"Upper Room Discourse"**

& **these** are his **final words** before His **Prayer** in **CH 17**,

& then His **Immediate Arrest** in the Garden

& so – In the **LARGER** sense
these are the final **Formal** Teaching words
of **3 ½ years** of His **Teaching** Ministry

John 16:33a (NLT)

33 I have told you all this (esv = I have said these things to you) **so that you may have peace in me . . .**

Jesus says: I have **told you** (taught you) **ALL** these **Things**
SO THAT – you **May have Peace** in me

These **TRUTHS** – the **Lord** has **Given** us
(**Not just** in the **upper room**) – But in **ALL** of **God's Word**

These **Truths**, & these **Promises**
Are **SO THAT** – we may have **PEACE** – **IN HIM**

The **Supernatural Peace of God**
RESTS ON the **TRUTHS**, & the **PROMISES** of the **Word of God**

The **Truths** & **Promises** of the **Word of God**
Are **Brought** to **LIFE** by the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit** in us
& (ultimately) The **Peace of God** – is **“IN CHRIST”**

We **talk a LOT** about being **IN** Christ

It's such a **small, little word**

I think **sometimes** we just **accept** it as **Christian Vocabulary**
Without grasping what it really **means**

Here's what one of the best **Greek Dictionaries** says
about **this word** - as it's being **used here**

EN – *A marker of close personal association. Meaning, “one with, in union with, joined closely to.”*

& so we have:

The **Truths** & the **Promises** of the **Word of God**
Brought Alive inside us by the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit** . . .

& then - The Supernatural **Peace of God** comes from **being**
“one with, in union with, joined closely to” **Jesus Christ** !!

Lord, that is what we need.

*We need to immerse ourselves in the Truths
and the Promises of your Word*

*We need the power of your Holy Spirit
to make your Word come Alive in us*

*& We need to be One With, in Union With, & Joined Closely To
YOU, Jesus.*

Do you SEE IT ?

& **Man** – Do we **NEED THAT**
Because we haven't **even read** all of **Jn 16:33** yet

Let's **Re-Read** the **entire Vs** - & we'll **focus** on the **2nd half**

John 16:33 (NLT)

33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

Lord, here on earth, we have many Trials, & Sorrows, But Lord, we will Take Heart, we will have a strong confidence, we will NOT be MOVED, because YOU Lord Jesus, have overcome this world. You have, once & for all – ON our behalf, conquered the trials and the sorrows that we face in this world.

SO - **NOT ONLY** does The **Peace of God** - come from being
"one with, in union with, joined closely to Jesus Christ"

But **THAT IS ALSO** how we have OVERCOME this World !!

Being ***"one with, in union with, joined closely to Jesus Christ"***
Is **BOTH** our **PEACE** – **AND** our **VICTORY** over this world

But guys – I'm not talking about this **IN THEORY**
I'm talking about This IN Real Life **PRACTICE**

We must be ***"one with, in union with, joined closely to Jesus Christ"*** – In a **Very Real - DAILY Relationship** with Him

Coupled with the **Word of God** - & the **Power** of **the Holy Spirit**
THAT is the **PATH** – to the **Supernatural Peace of God**

& that is Really, Really GOOD NEWS

Let's **get one O.T. Vs** in here

This is one of my **Family's Favorite Vs's** on this subject

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Lord, you will keep me in perfect peace, if I will trust in you completely, if I will commit myself to you completely, If I will lean on you, & cling to you completely. & so Lord, I do - completely. I commit all my worries, all my trials, all my struggles, I commit them all to you. Trusting you completely.

But **WAIT** – the **verse** also says - ***God will keep in perfect peace all whose thoughts are fixed on Him!***

Oh Lord, that's hard. Our mind is 'bent' toward fear, and stress, and anxiety. But Lord, I WILL keep my thoughts fixed on you, fixed on your Word. With the Power of Your Holy Spirit I will wrestle my thoughts away from this world, and away from my own fears, and I will FIX them – on YOU alone, Lord

Guys - We have **God's WORD**

We have the **Power of the Holy Spirit**

& we **have** the **RIGHT**, to **have** a

Very Real - DAILY Relationship with Jesus Christ

BUT - In our own strength – God's Peace is IMPOSSIBLE

It's Only as WE will make these Choices

to SET our Lives by God's Word

In the Power of the Holy Spirit

& in a Real, Daily Relationship with Jesus Christ . . .

That God WILL Transform our Lives

& we WILL experience - The Peace of God

The **Next Vs in Isa 26** – **continues** the thought . . .

Isaiah 26:4 (NLT)

4 Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

That's what we need Lord, we need You, to be our eternal ROCK. We need You, the Rock of Ages. You are our Strong Foundation, & Trusting in YOU, we will not be moved. You ARE our Eternal Rock, and we will trust in you always.

Alright - Let's Finish with Romans 15:13 (NLT)

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, God, You ARE the SOURCE of our Great Hope. We pray Lord, that you would fill us completely with JOY and PEACE, AS we continue to grow in our Complete Trust in you.

& Lord, may we SO Trust you, & SO be filled completely with your Joy & Peace, that we would OVERFLOW with confident hope – Thru the POWER of your Holy Spirit

That's what we want, isn't it?

To **SO Trust** God – To **SO have** our **Thoughts FIXED** on Him
That we would be **FILLED** with The **Peace of God**

& **SO MUCH** So – that we would **OVERFLOW** with **Confident Hope**
THROUGH the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**

THAT will Bring us - the Supernatural Peace of God

That **JESUS DIED** to Give us

AND that he **sent** the **Holy Spirit** to **EMPOWER** us to **Have**

AND that is **Confidently Promised** in His **Word**

Our **only Job** – is to **LEARN** – to **WALK** in it

God doesn't tell us – to just “Snap Our Fingers”
& instantly we'll have the Peace of God

He tells us to Trust completely IN Him

To Fix our Thoughts completely ON Him

To Immerse ourselves in the Truths & the Promises of His Word

To Continually Ask Him – to Fill us with the Holy Spirit

& to be IN Christ – “*To be one with, in union with,
& to be joined closely to Jesus Christ*”

& I can Promise you today
the Result of that will be

The Supernatural Peace of God
that Passes all understanding

Let's Pray