

Deeper Applications “Where Peace Resides”

John 14:25-30

Cross Community Church, Savannah, Ga.

August 23, 2026

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

- **Main Idea: The peace of God isn’t the absence of chaos; It is about the presence of the Spirit of Peace.**

Summary

What does it mean to have peace in the middle of chaos? Not the kind of peace that comes from escaping our problems, but a deep, unshakeable peace that holds steady even when everything around us is falling apart. That is exactly what we explore through the words of Jesus in John 14, where he makes an extraordinary promise to his followers on the very night he was about to walk into the most turbulent hours of his earthly life. He offers them his peace, not a watered-down version, but the same complete and perfect peace he himself shares with the Father. We are invited to reconsider our assumptions about what peace actually is. The world tells us peace is the absence of noise, pressure, and trouble. But the peace Jesus offers is something entirely different. It is rooted in presence, specifically the presence of the

Holy Spirit dwelling within us. When we understand that the Holy Spirit is described as another helper of the same kind as Jesus, meaning not a lesser substitute but an equal advocate, we begin to grasp just how profound this gift truly is. This message challenges us to stop chasing the absence of difficulty and start recognizing the presence of the one who overcomes it. The peace of God is not a destination we arrive at when life calms down. It is a companion we carry with us through every storm.

Discussion Questions

The sermon distinguishes between the world's peace as the absence of chaos and God's peace as the presence of the Holy Spirit -- in what practical ways does this distinction change how you approach difficult seasons in your life?

Jesus said in John 16:7 that it is to our advantage for him to go away so the Holy Spirit could come -- do you truly live as though the indwelling Holy Spirit is a greater gift than having walked with Jesus physically on earth, and why or why not?

The pastor described moments of supernatural calm during crisis situations and attributed that calm to the Holy Spirit -- can you recall a time when you experienced a peace that seemed to defy your circumstances, and what did that reveal to you about God's presence?

Jesus offered peace to his disciples on the very night he himself was troubled, knowing betrayal and crucifixion were imminent -- what does it mean to you that the source of your peace is someone who has personally experienced profound suffering and turmoil?

The sermon describes the Holy Spirit as dwelling within you, coming alongside you, and going before you -- which of these three roles do you find most difficult to trust in your current season of life, and why?

The pastor noted that following Jesus does not exempt us from trouble but does exempt us from a troubled heart -- how does that distinction challenge or reshape the way you pray when facing hardship?

The word translated 'another' in John 14:16 is the Greek word 'allos,' meaning another of the same kind as Jesus -- how does understanding the Holy Spirit as being of the same nature as Christ deepen your confidence in his ability to guide and comfort you?

The sermon suggests that a Christian's unexplainable peace in the middle of chaos should be peculiar enough to prompt questions from unbelievers -- in what ways does your daily life reflect a peace that points others toward Christ?

The pastor described the Holy Spirit as already going before people before they were even aware of it, citing his own church planting journey as an example -- how does believing that God is already at work ahead of you affect the way you make decisions about your future?

Peace is described using the Hebrew concept of shalom, meaning not merely the absence of trouble but everything that makes for our highest good -- how does embracing this fuller definition of peace change what you ask God for and what you thank him for?

Small Group Guide: Where Peace Resides

Based on John 14:25-31

Overview

In this message, we explored the peace that Jesus promises to his followers — a peace that is not dependent on the absence of chaos, but on the presence of the Holy Spirit. The central idea: the peace of God is not about the absence of chaos; it is about the presence of the Spirit of Peace. We examined three ways the Holy Spirit works in the life of a believer: dwelling within us, coming alongside us, and going before us.

Key Verse

John 14:27 — Jesus offers his followers a peace that is distinctly his own, not the kind the world offers, and calls them not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid.

Key Takeaways

- The peace Jesus gives is his own perfect peace — the same peace he shares with God the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit is described as a helper of the same kind as Jesus (the Greek word "allos" — another of the same kind), meaning his presence is not a lesser substitute but an equal continuation of Christ's work.
 - The Holy Spirit dwelling within you, coming alongside you, and going before you makes it possible to experience real peace in the middle of real chaos.
 - Peace is not escape from trouble. Jesus promised his followers they would have trouble in this world (John 16:33). But he also promised that his peace would be greater than that trouble.
 - Our peace should be peculiar to those around us. When the world sees a believer at rest in the middle of chaos, it becomes a witness.
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Opening Question

Take a few minutes to get the conversation started before diving into the text.

- Think of a time when you were in a chaotic or stressful situation and somehow felt an unusual sense of calm. What do you think was the source of that peace? How did others around you respond to it?
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Discussion Questions

The Holy Spirit Dwells Within You

1. The pastor described peace using the Greek word "eirene" and the Hebrew word "shalom" — words that carry the idea of security, wholeness, and exemption from the rage of war. How does that definition change the way you think about what it means to have peace?
2. Jesus said in John 16:33 that in this world we will have trouble, but that we should take heart because he has overcome the world. How do you personally reconcile the reality of trouble with the promise of peace? Where do you find that tension most difficult to hold?
3. The pastor made the point that when you receive Jesus, you receive the Holy Spirit as well — what he called the "full meal deal." How does understanding that the Holy Spirit is already within you, rather than something you need to seek separately, change the way you approach your daily life and struggles?
4. The young man at the apartment complex who prayed to receive Christ described what he immediately felt as "peace." He still had the same problems after that prayer. What does that tell us about the nature of the peace Jesus gives?

The Holy Spirit Comes Alongside You

5. The word translated "helper" or "comforter" in John 14 carries the idea of a legal advocate — someone who stands in your place and argues your case. What does it mean to you personally that the Holy Spirit fills that role in your life? How have you experienced that kind of advocacy?

6. The pastor shared the story of his friend Billy, who came alongside him in a moment of grief and typed his master's thesis so he could get through a devastating time. Who in your life has served as a "Holy Spirit figure" — someone who came alongside you when you could not carry the load alone? How did that experience point you to God?
7. Jesus said in John 16:7 that it was actually to our advantage that he go away so that the Holy Spirit could come. Does that feel true to you in your daily experience? Why or why not? What would it look like to more fully embrace that advantage?
8. The Holy Spirit can be obeyed, disobeyed, grieved, and resisted. What are some practical ways we might be resisting or grieving the Holy Spirit in our lives without realizing it? What would it look like to be more responsive to his leading this week?

The Holy Spirit Goes Before You

9. The pastor talked about how God was working five years before the church plant to prepare both him and Pastor Brian for something neither of them could see yet. Can you think of a time in your own life when you looked back and realized God had been preparing you for something long before you knew it was coming? What did that teach you about trusting him with your future?
10. In 1 Peter 3:15, believers are called to always be prepared to give a reason for the hope they have, doing so with gentleness and respect. The pastor connected this to the idea that our peace should be noticeable enough that people ask about it. Is your peace noticeable? What would it look like for your peace to become a more consistent witness to those around you?

Reflection and Application

Take a few quiet minutes individually before sharing with the group.

- On a scale of one to ten, how aware are you on a daily basis of the Holy Spirit's presence within you, beside you, and before you? What tends to diminish that awareness?
 - Where in your life right now are you most tempted to seek the world's version of peace — escape, avoidance, or distraction — rather than the peace Jesus offers?
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Practical Applications

The pastor offered three action points at the close of the sermon. Use these as a framework for the group to discuss how they will put the message into practice this week.

- 1. Practice the peace of God's presence daily.** Choose a specific time each day this week to pause and acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is within you, beside you, and before you. It may be in the morning before the day begins, or in a moment of stress during the day. Simply say out loud or in your heart: "Lord, you are with me right now."
 - 2. Seek peace and pursue it.** Identify one situation in your life right now that is producing anxiety, fear, or a troubled heart. Bring it specifically before the Lord in prayer this week, asking him to replace the trouble with his peace. Consider sharing that situation with a trusted person in your group who can pray with you.
 - 3. Be an example of God's peace to others.** Think of one person in your life — a coworker, neighbor, classmate, or family member — who is watching how you handle difficulty. Pray for that person by name this week. Ask God to make your peace visible and to give you an opportunity to point them to the source of it.
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Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying out loud as a group, using the passage from Psalm 29:10-11 that was read at the close of the service as a guide: the Lord is enthroned as king forever, and it is his desire to give strength and peace to his people. Ask him to do exactly that for each person in your group this week.

For Further Study

- John 14:1-31 — Read the full Upper Room Discourse in context
- John 16:33 — Jesus's promise of trouble and his promise of overcoming
- Philippians 4:6-7 — The peace of God that guards hearts and minds

- Isaiah 26:3 — The promise of perfect peace for those whose minds are stayed on the Lord
- Acts 2:1-4 — The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- Romans 8:26-27 — The Holy Spirit interceding on our behalf

• **5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide**

• **Where Peace Resides: Living in the Presence of the Holy Spirit**

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- **Day 1: The Peace That Surpasses Understanding**
 - Reading: John 14:25-27
 - Devotional: Jesus did not promise his followers a life without trouble. He promised something far greater -- his own peace. This is not the world's version of peace, which depends on the absence of noise, conflict, or pressure. This is the peace of Christ himself, the same perfect, complete peace he shares with the Father. It is offered freely to every believer. Today, whatever chaos surrounds you, pause and acknowledge that the Prince of Peace dwells within you. His peace is not circumstantial. It is a settled, unshakeable presence that guards your heart regardless of what the day brings.
 - Reflection: In what area of your life are you seeking the absence of trouble rather than the presence of Christ?
 - Practical Application: Write down one chaotic situation you are facing. Beside it, write the words "Christ is present here." Return to it throughout the day as a reminder that peace is about presence, not absence.
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- **Day 2: The Helper Within You**
 - Reading: John 14:15-17
 - Devotional: Jesus told his followers he would send another Helper -- one of the same kind as himself. This is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, who does not merely visit you but takes up permanent residence within you the moment you receive Christ. He is your advocate, your comforter, your counselor. He encourages when you are worn down, guides when you are lost, and intercedes when you have no words left. You are never navigating life alone. The same Spirit who carried the writers of Scripture along now carries you. Lean into his presence today and trust that he is working within you.

- Reflection: Are you living as though the Holy Spirit is actively dwelling within you, or are you carrying your burdens as if you are alone?
 - Practical Application: Before beginning your daily responsibilities, pray a simple prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to lead you through each moment. Notice where his guidance shows up in unexpected ways.
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- **Day 3: Greater Works Through the Spirit**

- Reading: John 14:12-14; John 16:7
 - Devotional: Jesus made a remarkable statement -- those who believe in him would do works even greater in number and reach than he himself performed during his earthly ministry. This is not a boast about human ability. It is a declaration about the limitless power of the Holy Spirit working through surrendered lives. Jesus had to go so that the Spirit could come -- not confined to one location, one language, or one people group, but reaching the entire world through ordinary believers. You are part of that greater work. Your faithfulness in your corner of the world carries eternal significance. Do not underestimate what God can do through you.
 - Reflection: Do you believe God wants to do something significant through your life right where you are?
 - Practical Application: Identify one person in your immediate circle -- a classmate, coworker, or neighbor -- and commit to praying for them by name this week, trusting the Holy Spirit to work through your presence in their life.
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- **Day 4: Peace in the Middle of Trouble**

- Reading: John 16:33; Philippians 4:6-7
 - Devotional: Jesus did not soften the reality of life in a broken world. He told his followers plainly that trouble would come. Yet in the same breath, he called them to take heart, because he has overcome the world. The peace of God, as described in Philippians 4, is not earned through perfect circumstances. It is received through prayer, thanksgiving, and trust. It stands guard over your heart and mind like a sentinel. You may have troubled experiences, but you do not have to have a troubled heart. The difference between the two is the active, abiding presence of Jesus Christ living within you.
 - Reflection: When trouble arrives, is your first instinct to run from it, or to bring it to Christ and receive his peace in return?
 - Practical Application: The next time anxiety rises in your heart today, stop and pray before you react. Thank God for one specific thing, then release the burden to him. Practice this each time worry surfaces throughout the day.
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- **Day 5: The Spirit Goes Before You**

- Reading: John 14:1-6; Isaiah 26:3
- Devotional: The same Jesus who went ahead to prepare a place for his followers also sends his Spirit ahead to prepare the way in your daily life. Nothing in your future catches God off guard. The job that will open, the teacher you will need, the

friendship that will sustain you -- God is already working in those moments before you arrive. Isaiah reminds us that the person whose mind is stayed on the Lord will be kept in perfect peace. This is not passive waiting. It is active trust, fixing your gaze on the one who goes before you and believing that his plans for you are good, purposeful, and sure.

- Reflection: What future uncertainty are you carrying today that you need to surrender to the God who has already gone before you?
- Practical Application: Take a moment to write down one fear about the future. Then write beside it: "God is already there." Place it somewhere visible this week as a daily act of surrender and trust in the one who holds your future in his hands.