



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THE UNSEEN BATTLE

PART IV

PROTECTING YOUR PEACE

Week One....

God Gave Us A Sound Mind, But We Must Guard What God Gave

DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT WEAPONS FOR WARFARE

Week Two....

There Is Power In Prayer

**Prayer Releases The Pain*

**Prayer Releases The Pressure*

**Prayer Restores Peace*

**Prayer Shifts Your Perspective*

There Is Power In Purpose

You Purpose Is Always Greater Than The Pain

There Is Power In Positive People

Healing Is Connected To A Healthy Community

Last Week ~ Mark 5:1-15

1) The Picture Of Trauma

2) The Path To Transformation

3) The Power Of Testimony

Tonight....

Protecting Your Peace

Uniqueness Of God's Peace

Effort Required To Maintain This Peace

Key Passages

John 14:27 (ESV)

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.*

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 *You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God;*
7 *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Introduction

BIBLICAL PEACE is more than *the absence* of conflict, trouble, or stress.

In Scripture, *PEACE* is wholeness, stability, harmony, rest, and inner security that comes FROM GOD.

The Hebrew word for *PEACE* is Shalom, which means...
Completeness ~ Wholeness ~ Wellness ~ Restored order

PEACE is not merely external calmness; it is internal stability.

The world defines *PEACE* as *THE ABSENCE* of problems...
but God defines peace as *HIS PRESENCE* in the middle of problems.

Jesus never promised believers *A STORM-FREE LIFE*.
He promised believers *HIS PRESENCE* and *HIS PEACE* in the midst of life's storms.

You cannot stop problems from coming, *BUT* you can stop problems from ruling your heart.

John 16:33 (NIV)

33 "I have told you *these things*, so that *IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE*.
In this world you will have trouble. BUT TAKE HEART! I have overcome the world."

Introduction

Why Is Peace Important?

*Peace protects the mind ~Peace stabilizes emotions ~Peace strengthens faith
Peace helps discernment ~Peace gives endurance during pressure ~
Peace keeps us from reacting carnally ~Peace allows us to hear God clearly*

*The enemy attacks peace because **disturbed people** are easier to **distract, discourage, and derail.**
The enemy understands that If he cannot destroy you physically,
he will attempt to **disturb you** mentally and emotionally.*

When Peace Is Absent:

*Anxiety increases ~Fear dominates ~Emotions become unstable
Decisions become impulsive ~ Faith becomes weakened*

What Robs Us Of Our Peace

- 1) Fear ~ Fear magnifies possibilities while minimizing God's promise*
- 2) Trauma ~ Painful experiences can leave emotional wounds that continually disturb the soul.*
- 3) Anxiety ~ Constant worry about tomorrow destroys the ability to rest today*
- 4) Negative Thinking ~ Uncontrolled thoughts can create internal warfare.*
- 5) Guilt and Shame ~ The enemy often uses condemnation to rob believers of peace.*

Principle #1 ~ God's Peace Is Unique

John 14:27 (NKJV)

27 *Peace* I leave with you, *My peace* I give to you; *not as the world gives do I give to you.*

Jesus makes a clear distinction: There is a peace the world offers, and there is a peace only God can provide.

The problem is many people are searching for *spiritual peace in temporary places.*
If your peace is connected to *temporary things*, your *peace will constantly fluctuate.*

WORLDLY PEACE Is Fragile because it depends on *external circumstances*

THE WORLD offers *temporary peace* in the form of...

Money ~ Relationships ~ Entertainment ~ Success ~ Fleshly Distractions

WORLDLY PEACE says: *"I have peace because everything is going well."*

THE WORLD SAYS: *"If everything around me calms down, then I can have peace."*

JESUS OFFERS A PEACE THAT IS SPIRITUAL, LASTING, AND ROOTED IN HIS PRESENCE.

HIS PEACE OPERATES FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

God's Peace Comes From KNOWING....

God is Sovereign... God is Faithful.... God is Present.... God is Working

A.W Tozer says... World Peace is Like A Candle ~ One Good Wind Can Blow It Out

God's Peace is Like A Lighthouse ~ Storms Rage, But It Continues To Function

Principle #1 ~ God's Peace Is Unique

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 You will keep him in **PERFECT PEACE**....

The phrase "**PERFECT PEACE**" literally means: "Peace, Peace." or "Peace On Top Of Peace"

Trauma fragments people *internally* ~ *Fear* divides the mind.

Perfect Peace speaks of *Complete Peace*

Peace Emotionally ~ *Peace Mentally* ~ *Peace Spiritually*

Perfect Peace Does Not Mean Perfect Circumstances.

*It means **STABILITY IN SPITE OF** instability around you.*

God can give an *INWARD CALM* while *OUTWARD CHAOS STILL EXISTS*.

PERFECT PEACE is revealed when *pressure should have broken you,*
YET GOD SUSTAINS YOU INTERNALLY.

This Peace Does Not Mean That You Have It All Together ~ *It Just Means You Are Kept From Coming Apart*
You may cry but still have peace ~ *You may grieve but still have peace* ~ *You may struggle but still have peace*
You may fight battles but still have peace

THIS IS THE PEACE THAT KEEPS YOU WHEN YOU CAN'T KEEP YOURSELF

Principle #1 ~ God's Peace Is Unique

Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)

*7 and the peace of God, which **SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

*The word **surpasses** means **To rise above...To excel beyond**
To go higher than... To exceed human ability and explanation*

***THIS PEACE IS SUPERNATURAL** because **it cannot be fully explained**
through logic, psychology, emotion, or circumstance.*

THIS PEACE WILL HAVE PEOPLE WONDERING....

How are you still standing?

How are you still worshipping?

How are you still functioning after everything you endured?

***IT IS A PEACE** that confuses people because **externally you should be falling apart,**
BUT INTERNALLY GOD IS SUSTAINING YOU.*

Acts 28:6 (NIV)

6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds.....

Principle #2 ~ God's Peace Requires Human Effort

John 14:27 (NKJV)

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 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Peace is a gift from God, **BUT** it must also be **PROTECTED INTENTIONALLY**.
Many believers **want peace** while **entertaining things that disturb peace**.

Jesus says... **I am giving you MY PEACE...**
You have **A RESPONSIBILITY** to guard **what we allow to dominate your heart**.

The word "TROUBLED" means: **Agitated ~Disturbed ~Shaken**
Jesus understood that **EXTERNAL PRESSURE** has a way of **CREATING INTERNAL DISTURBANCE**.
So He Says...**Don't Let what's around you get in you...**
Just because **trouble exists around you** does not mean **it must dominate within you**.

DON'T ALLOW YOUR HEART TO BECOME FEARFUL....
Fear attempts to **pull the mind** into **IMAGINED DISASTERS** before they even happen.
WHAT IF SCENARIOS...

Notice The Phrase ~ **"Let Not"** ~ Compare this to...
Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...

Principle #2 ~ God's Peace Requires Human Effort

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)

3 You keep him in perfect peace **WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON YOU, BECAUSE HE TRUSTS IN YOU.**

Peace is Promised by God, **BUT FOCUS AND TRUST** are the **RESPONSIBILITY** of the believer.

THE PROMISE is connected to **condition**....*Whose Mind Is Stayed On You ~ Because He Trusts In You*

The Word "Stayed" ~ means *fixed, established, rooted in..*

IT'S THE PICTURE OF A MIND THAT IS ANCHORED IN GOD

The enemy desires to **UPROOT YOUR FOCUS** to disturb your peace

A Distracted Mind Produces A Disturbed Spirit

Many people lose peace because **their minds constantly shift** between...

Fear And Faith ~ Trust And Worry ~ God's Promises And Life's Problems

THE MIND BECOMES UNSTABLE WHEN IT IS DIVIDED.

James says, "A **double-minded man** is **unstable** in all his ways."

What Your Mind Stays On... Shapes Your Inner Condition

Whatever **consistently occupies YOUR THOUGHTS** eventually **affects** your emotions, your perspective
your behavior, and your spiritual condition

Principle #2 ~ God's Peace Requires Human Effort

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)

3 You keep him in perfect peace **WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON YOU, BECAUSE HE TRUSTS IN YOU.**

Do You Trust God.....

Anxiety often **reveals** areas where trust is struggling.

Most People Will **Tell You** They Trust God...

BUT.....

TRUST means you **BELIEVE GOD** even when you do not **UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.**

Why Is This Difficult...

One reason people struggle with peace is because **HUMAN NATURE WANTS CONTROL.**

Control feels safe.

So God Arranges situations in life **BEYOND OUR CONTROL** so we will **LEARN** dependence upon God.

As long as **YOU BELIEVE** everything depends on you:

Anxiety grows ~ Pressure increases ~ Fear intensifies

BUT WHEN YOU TRUST GOD...YOU STOP CARRYING RESPONSIBILITIES THAT BELONG TO HIM.

Principle #2 ~ God's Peace Requires Human Effort

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

7 *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Paul Teaches that *Peace is not maintained accidentally*...It has to be **INTENTIONAL**

There are *spiritual disciplines* required to *keep anxiety from dominating* the heart and mind.

You cannot stop troubling thoughts from attempting to enter your mind, but you can CHOOSE what you do when they arrive.

Don't Be Anxious About Anything...

ANXIETY Is *The Mismanagement Of Concern* ~Do not allow *concern* to become *consuming anxiety*.

There is a difference between *Awareness Of Problems* and *Being Controlled By Problems*

TO BE ANXIOUS is to be *pulled apart mentally* ~ *overwhelmed with worry*

THE MIND BECOMES OVERWHELMED TRYING TO CARRY WHAT BELONGS TO GOD.

Anxiety Says Solve It.... Peace Says Trust Him

Principle #2 ~ God's Peace Requires Human Effort

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer Is God's Alternative To Anxiety

We have turned prayer into a ritual routine

God designed it to be a Release Valve

Instead of carrying worry internally, believers are instructed to release burdens to God spiritually.

PRAYER TRANSFERS PRESSURE TO GOD.

Do It With Thanksgiving

Anxiety says worry about what is... and be fearful about what might be...

Prayer With Thanksgiving Shifts The Focus To What God Has Already Done

You cannot remain completely consumed with panic while intentionally remembering God's faithfulness.

THANKSGIVING STRENGTHENS TRUST.

When You Are Grateful For What He Has Done...You Stand In Anticipation About What He Is Doing Next!!!

In Conclusion

Are You Protecting Your Peace

Discover The Uniqueness Of God's Peace

Put Forth The Effort To Maintain Your Peace