

The Peace of God Part 3 – When the Inside Is Stronger Than the Outside

Key Points:

- Believers live in a world influenced by spiritual warfare, but don't have to be controlled by it.
 - Jesus' peace is not fragile like the world's peace but is world-overcoming peace.
 - Christians must not yield to fear or let their hearts be troubled, as Jesus commanded.
 - The Holy Spirit dwelling within believers gives them God's very nature and peace.
 - Believers are the temple of God, meaning His presence is with them 24/7.
 - Peace is not found in external circumstances but in the Spirit living inside believers.
 - Christians are one spirit with God through salvation, which is why they can enter heaven.
 - The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes peace, which His presence within us accomplishes.
 - Believers must release their worries to God and trust His faithfulness to provide.
 - Being heavenly-minded and eternity-focused helps maintain peace in troubled times.
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5-Day Devotional:

5-Day Devotional: Living in the Peace of Christ

Day 1: The Peace That Dwells Within

Reading: John 14:25-27; 1 Corinthians 6:19

Devotional: Jesus didn't leave us with the world's fragile peace—He gave us His own overcoming peace through the Holy Spirit. The remarkable truth is that this peace isn't something we must search for externally; it already dwells within us. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, meaning God's presence and peace reside in you constantly. When circumstances threaten to overwhelm you, remember that the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead lives in you. You don't need to wait for your situation to change to experience peace. The Prince of Peace Himself has made His home in your heart. Today, stop looking outward for peace and recognize the divine presence already within you.

Reflection Question: What situations are causing you to search for peace externally rather than recognizing the peace already within you?

Day 2: One Spirit with the Lord

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; Romans 8:11

Devotional: When you received Christ, something supernatural occurred—you became one spirit with Him. This isn't merely symbolic; it's a spiritual reality that changes everything. Your spirit and God's Spirit are now joined together, giving you access to His nature, His power, and His peace. The old sin nature has passed away, and you have become a new creation. This means you possess the same overcoming peace that Jesus demonstrated when He slept in the storm-tossed boat. You're not winning battles because of your perfection, but because you share in Christ's victory. His triumph over the world is now your triumph. Let this truth anchor you today: you are eternally connected to the source of all peace.

Reflection Question: How does knowing you are one spirit with Christ change your perspective on your current challenges?

Day 3: Don't Yield to Fear

Reading: John 16:33; Ephesians 6:10-12

Devotional: Jesus gave us a clear command: "Don't yield to fear." This isn't a suggestion—it's an instruction from the One who has overcome the world. While we live in a world influenced by spiritual warfare, we don't have to participate in the anxiety and fear that grips others. The enemy operates through schemes, but greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. Walking in peace isn't about denying reality; it's about recognizing a greater reality—that Jesus has already won the war. When tribulation, pressure, and distress come, you have the power through the Holy Spirit to refuse fear entrance into your heart. Be of good courage today, not because circumstances are perfect, but because Christ has overcome.

Reflection Question: What specific fear do you need to actively refuse today, trusting in Christ's overcoming power?

Day 4: The Fruit of His Presence

Reading: Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 6:16

Devotional: The fruit of the Spirit—including peace—is produced by the Holy Spirit's presence within you. This isn't something you manufacture through willpower or positive thinking; it's the result of God dwelling in you. As the temple of the living God, you carry His nature everywhere you go. When your mind becomes troubled, it's not because peace has left you, but because you've disconnected from the awareness of His presence. The work of the Spirit within you accomplishes what you cannot accomplish on your own. Today, practice recognizing His presence throughout your day. When anxiety knocks, remind yourself: "The Spirit of God dwells in me. His peace is my peace. I will not allow circumstances to steal what Christ has given me."

Reflection Question: In what areas of life do you need to reconnect with the awareness of God's presence within you?

Day 5: Eternal Perspective, Present Peace**Reading: Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:11; John 14:27**

Devotional: Your peace is rooted not just in present circumstances but in eternal reality. The Spirit of God's Son dwells in your heart, connecting you to an unshakeable kingdom. When you grasp that you're living for eternity—that this life is preparation for intergalactic rulership with Christ—temporary troubles lose their power to disturb you. God has already secured your future, and He's faithful to walk with you through every moment until then. Release your worries to Him today. He's already working on solutions you can't see. Like Jesus sleeping in the storm, you can rest in the midst of chaos because your Father holds the universe in His hands. Trust Him with what you cannot control and experience the peace that surpasses understanding.

Reflection Question: What worry do you need to release to God today, trusting that He's already working on your behalf?

Closing Prayer: Father, thank You for the gift of Your peace through the Holy Spirit who dwells within me. Help me to live each day aware of Your presence, refusing to yield to fear and choosing instead to walk in the overcoming peace of Christ. When the world around me is in

turmoil, remind me that I am one spirit with You and that Your peace is greater than any circumstance I face. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Peace of God Part 3 – Scripture References from the Sermon

Directly Referenced or Read:

1. **Ephesians 6:10-12** - Spiritual warfare and the armor of God.
2. **John 14:25-27** - Jesus leaving His peace and the Holy Spirit.
3. **John 16:31-33** - Jesus speaking about tribulation and overcoming the world.
4. **Romans 8:11** - The Spirit who raised Jesus dwells in believers.
5. **Romans 8:13** - The Spirit gives power to dominate the flesh (mentioned but not read).
6. **1 Corinthians 3:16** - Believers as the temple of God.
7. **1 Corinthians 6:17** - Being joined to the Lord as one spirit.
8. **1 Corinthians 6:19** - Body as temple of the Holy Spirit.
9. **2 Corinthians 5:17-18** - New creation in Christ.
10. **2 Corinthians 6:16** - Believers as temple of the living God.
11. **Galatians 4:6** - Spirit of His Son sent into our hearts.
12. **Galatians 5:22** - Fruit of the Spirit (Amplified translation cited).

Alluded to or Mentioned (not directly read):

13. **James 4:7** - Submit to God, resist the devil (paraphrased: "submit therefore unto God, resist the devil and he will flee").
14. **Hebrews 12:2** - Jesus as author and finisher of faith.
15. **Philippians 4:19** - God supplies all needs according to His riches in glory.
16. **Matthew 6:26-30** - Birds of the air and lilies of the field (reference to God's provision).

17. **Daniel 6** - Daniel in the lion's den.

18. **Matthew 8:23-27 / Mark 4:35-41 / Luke 8:22-25** - Jesus sleeping in the boat during a storm.

19. **Psalms 46:2** - Though mountains fall into the sea (paraphrased).

Relevant Verses for Main Themes (not mentioned but align with sermon):

20. **Philippians 4:6-7** - Anxiety, prayer, and the peace of God.

21. **Isaiah 26:3** - Perfect peace for those whose mind is stayed on God.

22. **Colossians 3:15** - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

23. **2 Timothy 1:7** - God has not given us a spirit of fear.

24. **Romans 8:6** - Mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

25. **John 20:19-21** - Jesus saying "Peace be with you" to disciples.

26. **Isaiah 9:6** - Jesus as Prince of Peace.

The Peace of God Part 3 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

Based on Ephesians 6 & John 14:27

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to help your group understand and walk in His peace more deeply this week.

Ice Breaker

Share one situation this past week where you felt stressed or anxious. How did you handle it?

Key Scripture Review

Primary Texts:

- **Ephesians 6:10-12**
 - **John 14:27**
 - **John 16:33**
 - **Romans 8:11**
 - **1 Corinthians 6:17, 19**
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Spiritual Battle

1. The sermon states we live in a world influenced by Satan and his schemes (Ephesians 6:12). How does recognizing this spiritual reality change the way you view your daily struggles?
2. Why do you think many Christians struggle to believe they can have peace in the midst of everything?

The Nature of God's Peace

3. What's the difference between Jesus' peace and the world's "fragile peace"? Can you think of examples where the world promises peace but fails to deliver?
4. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus doesn't just "keep the peace" but "makes the peace." What does this distinction mean to you?

The Holy Spirit Within

5. Read **1 Corinthians 6:19** together. How does understanding that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit change your perspective on daily life?
6. The pastor said, "When you receive Jesus, heaven moved into you." How does this truth impact your sense of security and identity?

Practical Application

7. Jesus said in **John 14:27**, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The sermon points out that "let" is personal—it's our choice. What practical steps can you take to not "yield to fear"?
 8. The sermon states: "Don't look for peace in your circumstances or in your relationship...Your primary source of peace is inside you." How can you apply this when facing difficult situations this week?
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Key Takeaways

Write these down and share which one resonates most with you:

1. We have Jesus' peace within us by the Holy Spirit—it's a world-overcoming peace, not a weak, fragile peace.
 2. You and God are now one spirit (**1 Corinthians 6:17**). His nature, including His peace, dwells in you.
 3. We don't have to allow circumstances, feelings, or fear to steal our peace. We have the power through the Holy Spirit to control our hearts (mind, will, emotions).
 4. The spiritual battle has already been won by Jesus. We're fighting battles of faith while walking in His victory.
 5. Peace is with you 24/7 because the Holy Spirit is with you 24/7.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Declaration Practice

- Write down **John 14:27** and **Romans 8:11** on a card.
- When anxiety or fear arises, speak these verses out loud.
- Declare: "I will not yield to fear. I have the peace of Jesus within me."

Option 2: Peace Inventory

- Each evening, identify one moment where you felt troubled or anxious.
- Ask yourself: "Did I look for peace in my circumstances or in the Holy Spirit within me?"
- Journal what you learn about how you are responding to situations.

Option 3: Sleep in Faith

- Choose one worry you've been carrying.
- Before bed, pray and release it to God.
- As an act of faith, go to sleep trusting God has it handled (like Jesus sleeping in the boat during the storm).

Option 4: Memorization

- Memorize **John 16:33** this week.
 - Share it with someone who needs encouragement.
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Reflection Questions for Journaling

1. What areas of my life am I trying to control instead of trusting God's peace?
 2. How would my week look different if I truly believed the Holy Spirit's peace is in me 24/7?
 3. What "schemes of the devil" (wiles) have I been falling for that rob me of peace?
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Prayer Focus

Pray for each other in these areas:

- That we would recognize the Holy Spirit's presence within us daily.
 - For specific situations where group members need to walk in the reality of God's peace.
 - For the courage to declare God's Word over our circumstances instead of yielding to fear.
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For Next Week

- Continue reading through **Ephesians 6** and meditate on the armor of God.
 - Practice at least one of the practical applications above.
 - Come prepared to share how God's peace showed up in your week.
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Closing Thought

From the sermon: "Just because the world and people are in distress does not mean that the believer has to join them. Jesus told us to keep trouble and fear out of our hearts. He told us that He has overcome the world. His peace is world-overcoming peace."

Final Prayer: Close by having each person pray a one-sentence prayer of gratitude for God's peace.