

## The Peace of God Part 2 – When the Inside Is Stronger Than the Outside

### Key Points From This Message:

- We live in a world under the influence of Satan, the prince of the power of the air, who works to deceive humanity
  - Our true battle is spiritual, not physical—we wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual hosts of wickedness
  - The enemy has an organized hierarchical system operating from nations down to individuals for the purpose of deception
  - Jesus left us His peace, which is fundamentally different from the world's peace
  - God's peace is internal, not external—it doesn't depend on circumstances, relationships, or perfect environments
  - The peace we have is resurrection peace that has been tested and proven victorious
  - This peace resides within us through the Holy Spirit and cannot be taken away by external forces
  - We are "more than conquerors" because Jesus won the battle and we receive the benefits
  - Trying to find peace through controlling circumstances or people is futile—true peace comes only from Christ within
  - The peace of God transcends human understanding and guards our hearts and minds
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### 5-Day Devotional:

#### 5-Day Devotional: Living in the Peace of God

#### Day 1: The Prince of Peace Lives Within

**Reading:** John 14:25-27; Ephesians 2:6

**Devotional:** Jesus didn't leave us as orphans in a hostile world. Before His departure, He gave us something the world cannot manufacture: His peace. This isn't circumstantial peace that

depends on perfect conditions, but supernatural peace that flows from His very nature. The same Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead now dwells in you, carrying the peace of heaven itself. You are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, far above the chaos below. Today, recognize that the Prince of Peace isn't distant—He resides within your spirit. His resurrection peace has already overcome everything hell can throw at you. You possess God-level peace right now.

**Reflection:** What circumstances are you allowing to steal the peace that already belongs to you in Christ?

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## **Day 2: Our Battle is Spiritual**

**Reading: Ephesians 6:10-12; 1 Peter 5:8-9**

**Devotional:** We don't wrestle against flesh and blood. That difficult person, that political situation, that financial pressure—these aren't your real enemies. Behind every natural conflict stands a spiritual force seeking to rob your peace through deception. The enemy operates through organized ranks of darkness, but he can only devour those who remain ignorant of his schemes. You cannot fight spiritual battles with natural weapons alone. Mental strategies and physical solutions, while sometimes necessary, will always fall short without spiritual authority. Stand firm in faith. Be sober and vigilant. Your adversary prowls, but he has no power over those who resist him with the truth of God's Word and the peace of Christ.

**Reflection:** Are you fighting your battles with natural weapons or spiritual authority?

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## **Day 3: Peace That Transcends Understanding**

**Reading: Philippians 4:6-9; Isaiah 26:3**

**Devotional:** God's peace transcends human understanding because it doesn't make natural sense. How can you have peace in the storm? Because your peace isn't in your circumstances—it's in the Person of Jesus Christ. The world offers peace through perfect circumstances; God offers peace through perfect presence. When you keep your mind fixed on what is true, honorable, pure, and excellent, the God of peace Himself guards your heart. This isn't just positive thinking; it's kingdom thinking. Your meditation creates an environment where peace either flourishes or withers. The same God who spoke galaxies into existence promises to be

with you in all things. His peace doesn't eliminate trouble; it empowers you to stand unshaken within it.

**Reflection:** What are you fixing your thoughts on—circumstances or Christ?

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#### **Day 4: In Him You Have Peace**

**Reading: John 16:33; Romans 8:31-39**

**Devotional:** "In Me you may have peace," Jesus declared, followed immediately by, "In the world you will have tribulation." Notice the contrast: peace is found IN CHRIST, while trouble exists IN THE WORLD. You cannot have lasting peace by arranging external conditions or controlling people around you. Every attempt to manufacture peace through perfect environments, relationships, or bank accounts will ultimately fail. Why? Because peace isn't positional—it's personal. It's not found in a place but in a Person. Jesus has overcome the world, and you are more than a conqueror through Him. The battle has already been won; you're simply receiving the victory check (Evander Holyfield's wife). Stop searching for peace in Hawaii, relationships, or circumstances. Your peace is Christ Himself dwelling within you.

**Reflection:** Where are you seeking peace outside of Christ?

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#### **Day 5: When the Inside is Stronger Than the Outside**

**Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Colossians 3:15**

**Devotional:** The peace of Christ ruling in your heart is stronger than any external chaos. When your internal reality in Christ becomes more real than your external circumstances, you've discovered unshakable peace. This is resurrection peace—the same power that raised Jesus from death now operates within you. No weapon formed against it can prosper. No circumstance can control it. No person can steal it. This peace doesn't depend on others saying the right things or life going smoothly. It's an internal fortress that remains unmoved regardless of external storms. Let the peace of Christ rule as umpire in your heart, making the final call on every situation. Your circumstances will change, but the Prince of Peace within you remains constant, faithful, and sufficient for every moment.

**Reflection:** Is your internal peace in Christ stronger than your external circumstances today?

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**Weekly Challenge:** This week, when anxiety, fear, or turmoil arise, pause and acknowledge the Prince of Peace within you. Speak aloud: "I have the peace of God. His peace rules in my heart. I am not controlled by circumstances but by Christ who lives in me."

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## The Peace of God Part 2 – Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Ephesians 6:10-12** - Paul's instruction about spiritual warfare and the armor of God.
2. **Ephesians 2:2** - The prince of the power of the air.
3. **2 Corinthians 4:4** - The god of this age who blinds minds.
4. **1 John 5:19** - The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.
5. **1 Peter 5:8-9** - Be sober and vigilant; the devil as a roaring lion.
6. **Ephesians 2:6** - Seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
7. **John 14:25-27** - Jesus' promise of peace and the Holy Spirit.
8. **Isaiah 9:6** - Jesus called the Prince of Peace.
9. **John 16:31-33** - "In Me you may have peace."
10. **Philippians 4:7-9** - The peace of God that transcends understanding.

### Alluded to References:

11. **Genesis 11:1-9** - The Tower of Babel (mentioned in discussion about unity and confusion of languages).
12. **Romans 8:37** - More than conquerors through Christ (referenced in the "hyper Nike" discussion).

### Suggested Additional Verses Related to Main Themes:

**Peace Theme:**

- **Isaiah 26:3** - Perfect peace for those whose minds are stayed on God.
- **Colossians 3:15** - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
- **Romans 5:1** - Peace with God through Jesus Christ.

**Spiritual Warfare Theme:**

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** - Weapons of our warfare are not carnal.
- **James 4:7** - Resist the devil and he will flee.

**Internal vs. External Peace:**

- **Galatians 5:22-23** - Fruit of the Spirit (peace).
- **Romans 14:17** - The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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## The Peace of God Part 2 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

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**Opening Prayer & Icebreaker**

**Icebreaker Question:** When you think of the word "peace," what image or memory comes to mind? Share a time when you felt completely at peace.

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**Key Scripture References**

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** - Our battle is spiritual, not physical
- **John 14:27** - Jesus gives us His peace
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** - Be sober and vigilant; resist the devil
- **Philippians 4:7-9** - The peace that transcends understanding

## Sermon Summary

This message explored the reality that we live in a world influenced by spiritual forces, but as believers, we have access to God's supernatural peace—a peace that is internal, not dependent on external circumstances. Jesus left us His peace, which is fundamentally different from the world's peace. This peace lives within us through the Holy Spirit and cannot be taken away by circumstances, people, or the enemy.

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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Spiritual Battle (15 minutes)

1. The sermon stated that "most people are trying to handle spiritual realities with mental (natural thinking) or physical tools alone." What does this look like in everyday life? Can you identify areas where you might be doing this?
2. Read **Ephesians 6:12** together. How does understanding that our battle is spiritual (not against flesh and blood) change the way we approach conflicts with people, circumstances, or cultural issues?
3. The pastor described Satan's organized hierarchy of spiritual forces. Why is it important to recognize that the enemy is organized and strategic rather than random?

### The Nature of God's Peace (15 minutes)

4. Jesus said in **John 14:27**, "My peace I give to you, not as the world gives." What is the difference between the peace Jesus offers and the peace the world offers?
5. The sermon defined God's peace as "freedom from worry, well-being, untroubled, undisturbed, tranquility, and harmony." How does this compare to what you've been seeking or experiencing?
6. The pastor emphasized that peace is "in Jesus" (**John 16:33**), not in circumstances, locations, or other people. Why do we so often look for peace in external things rather than in Christ?

### Living from Internal Peace (15 minutes)

7. The message stated: "You have to have peace within first" before you can have peace in relationships or circumstances. What does it practically look like to cultivate internal peace?
  8. Discuss the illustration about people trying to control everyone around them to avoid being "triggered." How is this different from having internal peace in Christ? Have you seen this pattern in yourself or others?
  9. The pastor said, "Nobody can take my peace from me." Do you believe this? What challenges this belief in your daily life?
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### Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Our real conflict is spiritual, not physical** - We must engage spiritual realities with spiritual weapons, not just natural thinking or solutions.
  - ✓ **We already have God's peace within us** - Through the Holy Spirit, the very peace of Jesus Christ lives in every believer.
  - ✓ **Internal peace is more powerful than external peace** - God's peace is not controlled by circumstances, people, or the world around us.
  - ✓ **Jesus is the Prince of Peace** - Our peace is found in a person (Jesus), not in perfect circumstances or relationships.
  - ✓ **Peace must be internal before it can be external** - We cannot manufacture peace by controlling our environment; it flows from Christ within us.
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### Practical Applications

#### This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Peace Inventory

- Each day, identify moments when you feel anxious, troubled, or disturbed.

- Ask yourself: "Am I looking for peace in circumstances/people, or am I accessing the peace of Christ within me?"
- Journal about what you discover.

### **Option 2: Scripture Meditation**

- Memorize **John 14:27** or **Philippians 4:6-7**
- When anxiety or trouble comes, speak these verses aloud and remind yourself that Christ's peace lives in you.
- Practice pausing to acknowledge His presence within you.

### **Option 3: Spiritual Warfare Awareness**

- When facing conflict or difficulty this week, ask: "What is the spiritual reality behind this situation?"
- Pray specifically against spiritual forces rather than just reacting to circumstances.
- Keep a record of how this changes your perspective.

### **Option 4: Relationship Reset**

- Identify one relationship where you've been trying to control the other person to maintain your peace.
- Pray and ask God to help you release control and find peace in Him regardless of how that person acts.
- Practice responding from internal peace rather than external triggers.

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### **Group Prayer Focus (10 minutes)**

#### **Pray together for:**

1. **Spiritual awareness** - That group members would recognize spiritual realities and not just natural circumstances.
2. **Internal peace** - That each person would experience the reality of Christ's peace living within them.

3. **Freedom from circumstantial peace** - That we would stop seeking peace through controlling people and circumstances.
  4. **Spiritual strength** - To stand firm against the enemy's schemes and live as "more than conquerors."
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### Preparation for Next Week

- Continue reflecting on where you're seeking peace (internal vs. external).
  - Pay attention to how the world's news, social media, and relationships affect your peace.
  - Come prepared to discuss: "What threatens my peace most, and why?"
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### Closing Thought

*"The Prince of Peace lives on the inside of you if you're born again. So, can you have peace this week? You can have peace every day, all day, because the Prince of Peace lives on the inside of you."*

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### Additional Resources

- Review sermon notes on the church app or website
- Read **Ephesians 6:10-18** daily this week
- Consider reading: "**The Battlefield of the Mind**" by Joyce Meyer or watch the teaching series "**Mastering the Silence**" by Rev. Doug Jones on our YouTube channel **@ffcbillings509**.