

The Peace of God Part 6 – When the Inside Is Stronger Than the Outside

Key Points:

- The god of this present world system is Satan, not God, and this is confirmed by multiple New Testament passages.
- Satan operates through a structured spiritual hierarchy consisting of principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual hosts of wickedness.
- The believer's battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces operating in unseen realms.
- Satan gains access to individuals by seeding thoughts connected to fleshly desires, which is how he attempts to pull believers out of peace.
- Both God and Satan seek expression through human beings, and whichever one a person yields to gains influence through them.
- Believers are called to pray for all those in authority, regardless of political affiliation, because spiritual forces actively seek to influence leaders and governing systems.
- Satan is not lazy or disorganized; he is a counterfeiter who mimics the authority structures he learned as Lucifer before his fall.
- Believers are new creations in Christ, seated in heavenly places, and carry authority over the enemy through the name of Jesus.
- The church functions as a restraining force against the spirit of antichrist in the earth.
- Submitting to God and resisting the devil causes the enemy to flee, and this does not require an elaborate or dramatic response.

The Peace of God Part 6 - 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "The Peace of God" Series, Part Six

Day 1: You Are Not Fighting Alone

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-12

Devotional: The apostle Paul makes clear that the Christian life involves real spiritual opposition. The enemy is not a myth or a metaphor. He is organized, disciplined, and operates through layers of authority in the unseen realm. Yet Paul's first instruction is not to fight but to be strong in the Lord. Notice the order. Strength comes from your position in Christ before it comes from your effort in battle. You are not left to face a hostile spiritual world on your own. The power of God's might is available to every believer. Rest in that reality today before you engage in the battle.

Reflection: In what areas of your life have you been trying to fight in your own strength rather than drawing on the Lord's?

Practical Application: Before beginning your day, take five minutes to consciously acknowledge your dependence on God's strength rather than your own. Speak your position in Christ aloud.

Day 2: The God of This Age and the God of All Ages

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; 1 John 5:19

Devotional: Scripture does not hide the uncomfortable truth that the world system operates under the influence of the enemy. Paul describes Satan as the god of this age, one who blinds the minds of those who do not believe. John affirms that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. These are not small statements. They explain the confusion, corruption, and darkness visible in global systems and human culture. But here is the counterweight: God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness, has shone in the hearts of those who believe. You carry that light into a world that desperately needs it.

Reflection: How does understanding the spiritual source of world darkness change the way you view people who are lost or struggling?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who appears to be under spiritual blindness. Commit to praying specifically for them each day this week, asking God to open their eyes to the light of the gospel.

Day 3: Reclaimed Authority

Reading: Genesis 3:1-7; Luke 10:19; Romans 5:17

Devotional: When Adam and Eve yielded to the enemy in the garden, they did not simply make a poor personal decision. They transferred spiritual authority over the earth to the one who deceived them. The consequences of that moment have rippled through every generation. But God did not leave humanity without a remedy. Jesus came as the last Adam, and through his obedience, death, and resurrection, he reclaimed what was lost and then extended that authority to those who are in him. You are not a helpless bystander in a broken world. You are a redeemed believer who has been given authority over the power of the enemy.

Reflection: Do you live as someone who knows they carry spiritual authority, or do you often feel defeated by circumstances and opposition?

Practical Application: Study **Luke 10:19** and **Romans 5:17** carefully. Write down what each verse says about the authority and position of the believer. Carry those notes with you today as a reminder of who you are in Christ.

Day 4: Praying for Those in Authority

Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Daniel 10:12-13

Devotional: Paul instructs believers to pray for kings and all those in authority, not because every leader deserves admiration, but because prayer in the spiritual realm affects outcomes in the natural realm. **Daniel 10** gives a vivid picture of this reality, showing that a heavenly messenger was delayed by a demonic prince over a kingdom until reinforcement arrived. Your prayers are not passive religious exercises. They are active spiritual engagements that push back darkness and open doors for the gospel. God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Your intercession is a vital part of how that desire is expressed on the earth.

Reflection: Have you been withholding prayer from leaders you disagree with politically or personally? How might that be affecting the spiritual climate around you?

Practical Application: Make a short list of leaders at every level, local, state, and national, and pray for each one by name today. Ask God to give them wisdom and to restrain the influence of darkness in their decisions.

Day 5: Peace That Holds in a Hostile World

Reading: John 16:33; Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 2:4-6

Devotional: Jesus told his disciples plainly that in this world they would have tribulation. He did not promise a life free from opposition, conflict, or hardship. What he promised was something far more durable: peace that the world cannot give and cannot take away. You live in a fallen world system that is influenced by an organized enemy. That is simply true. But you are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and that position is also simply true. The peace of God is not the absence of trouble. It is the presence of God in the middle of trouble. Hold your head up. You are a champion on the inside, not because of anything you have done, but because of everything he has already won.

Reflection: What specific circumstance in your life right now is threatening your peace? How does your position in Christ speak directly to that situation?

Practical Application: Write **Ephesians 2:6** on a card and place it somewhere you will see it throughout the day. Each time you read it, declare aloud that you are seated above the chaos, above the fear, and above the schemes of the enemy, in Christ Jesus.

The Peace of God Part 6 – Scripture References from the Sermon

Here is a list of all scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

Ephesians 6:10-12 - The primary passage of the sermon, addressing spiritual warfare and the armor of God.

Ephesians 2:2-3 - Referenced regarding Satan as the prince of the power of the air and the former condition of believers walking according to the world.

Ephesians 2:6 - Alluded to regarding believers being seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:4 - Referenced regarding the god of this age blinding the minds of unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 10:5 - Alluded to regarding taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

1 John 5:19 - Referenced regarding the whole world lying under the sway of the wicked one.

1 Timothy 2 - Alluded to regarding Paul's instruction to pray for kings and all those in authority.

Genesis 3 - Alluded to regarding Adam and Eve's fall and the transfer of dominion to the enemy.

1 Corinthians 15:45 - Alluded to regarding Jesus as the last Adam.

Isaiah 10:27 - Alluded to regarding the anointing destroying the yoke and removing the burden.

James 4:7 - Alluded to regarding submitting to God and resisting the devil so that he will flee.

The Peace of God Part 6 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

Small Group Guide: The Peace of God, Part 6

Series Context

This guide is part of an ongoing series called "The Peace of God." Previous sessions covered what the peace of God is, how to receive it, how to live in it, and how to maintain it. This session shifts focus to understanding the spiritual forces that work against that peace in the world around us.

Key Takeaways

- Satan is described in Scripture as the god of this age and the prince of the power of the air. He operates through an organized hierarchy of spiritual forces to disrupt peace in the world and within the church.
- Our battle is not against other people. It is a spiritual battle, and recognizing that changes how we respond to conflict, opposition, and difficulty.
- The enemy gains influence through yielded lives. Likewise, God gains expression through those who yield to His Spirit.
- Believers are not powerless. Because of what Christ accomplished, Christians carry authority over the enemy and are called to stand in that authority through prayer, spiritual armor, and identity rooted in Christ.

- The whole world lies under the influence of the wicked one (**1 John 5:19**), but believers are seated in heavenly places in Christ (**Ephesians 2:6**) and are not subject to that same dominion.
 - Praying for leaders and those in authority is not optional or politically motivated. It is a spiritual responsibility with real consequences for how freely the gospel can move.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Before this series or this message, how much thought did you give to the reality of spiritual warfare in your daily life? Has your perspective shifted at all, and if so, how?
 2. The pastor described two extremes: ignoring the enemy entirely and becoming so focused on spiritual opposition that fear takes over. Where do you tend to fall on that spectrum, and why?
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Going Deeper

3. **Ephesians 6:10-12** describes a structured hierarchy of spiritual forces working against believers. What stands out to you most about the way the enemy is described in that passage? What does that description tell you about how seriously we should take spiritual warfare?
4. The pastor said, "Since our battle is not against flesh and blood, the enemy seeds thoughts into the minds of individuals that are connected to the lusts or desires of the flesh to tempt them into sin." How does this change the way you think about conflict with other people, whether in your family, your workplace, or even within the church?
5. The pastor made the point that God gets expression through those who yield to Him, and that the enemy gets expression through those who yield to him. What does it look like practically to yield to God in your everyday life? Are there areas where you recognize you may be yielding ground to the enemy instead?
6. **2 Corinthians 4:4** describes the enemy blinding the minds of unbelievers. How does understanding this affect the way you view people who are far from God? Does it change your compassion toward them or your approach to sharing your faith?

7. The pastor emphasized praying for all leaders regardless of political affiliation, referencing **1 Timothy 2**. Why do you think this discipline is so difficult for many believers today? What would it look like for your group to take this more seriously?
 8. The pastor said, "If we could just open your eyes to see who you are in the spirit, some of your countenances would turn around in a heartbeat." What does it mean to you personally that you are seated in heavenly places in Christ? Is that a truth you actually live from, or does it feel distant or abstract?
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Personal Reflection

9. The pastor noted that when Adam and Eve yielded their authority to the enemy, the consequences extended far beyond themselves. Can you think of a time when a choice you made in yielding to sin had effects on people around you? What did that teach you about the weight of the choices we make?
 10. The pastor described the church as a preserving force holding back the spirit of antichrist. Do you see yourself as an active participant in that role, or more as a passive bystander when it comes to spiritual warfare? What would it look like to be more intentional?
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Practical Applications

This week, put these into practice:

- **Pray for your leaders.** Set aside time each day this week to pray specifically for those in authority over you at every level -- local, state, and national -- regardless of your personal opinion of them. Ask God to give you genuine intercession for them, not just obligation.
- **Audit your thought life.** The enemy's primary access point is the mind. Pay attention this week to the thoughts that create fear, bitterness, or discouragement. When you identify those thoughts, practice taking them captive and redirecting your mind toward who God says you are.

- **Identify conflict through a new lens.** Think of a relationship or situation that has been a source of tension. Spend time in prayer this week approaching it not as a battle against that person, but as a spiritual matter requiring intercession and wisdom.
 - **Study your identity in Christ.** Look up at least three passages that describe who you are as a believer in Christ -- your authority, your position, and your inheritance. Write them down and return to them throughout the week when the enemy challenges your sense of worth or confidence.
 - **Catch up on the series.** If you or someone in your group has missed earlier sessions, the audio, video, and PDF notes are available on the church app and website. The foundation built in previous weeks is essential for understanding this material fully.
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Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for spiritual eyes to see the battle clearly without fear.
- Pray for the leaders of your city, state, and nation.
- Pray for those in your community who are blinded by the enemy and do not yet know Christ.
- Pray for your group to walk in the authority and peace that belongs to them in Christ.