

The Peace of God Part 7 – When the Inside Is Stronger Than the Outside

Key Points:

- The peace Jesus gives is internal and spiritual, not circumstantial, meaning no external change of environment or situation can produce it.
- Satan, as the god of this world, works through deception to lead people away from truth and into confusion, fear, and moral disorientation.
- Jesus warned his followers in advance about the conditions of the last days so that believers would not be caught off guard but would remain anchored in peace.
- Deception increases as individuals, cultures, and nations reject the authority of God's word, leaving only lies and fleshly desires to fill the vacuum.
- Wars and rumors of wars are a defining characteristic of the last days, and modern technology ensures that a constant flood of disturbing information reaches believers, which can erode peace if not managed wisely.
- Lawlessness causes the love of many to grow cold, making it vital that the church continues to walk in love even when the surrounding culture does not.
- Believers are seated in heavenly places in Christ, meaning they have access to God's perspective on their circumstances rather than being trapped in the confusion of ground-level thinking.
- Fellowship with God through his word and the Holy Spirit is the only reliable means of maintaining discernment, stability, and peace in a world that has lost its moral compass.

The Peace of God Part 7 - 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Theme: Peace in a Troubled World

Day 1: Peace That Surpasses Circumstance

Reading: John 14:27; John 16:33

Devotional: The world promises peace through perfect circumstances -- a better job, a quieter season, a more comfortable life. But Jesus offers something the world cannot manufacture or take away. His peace is not dependent on what surrounds you; it lives within you. When Jesus warned that trouble would come, He was not being pessimistic. He was being honest, and His honesty was an act of love. He prepared you before the storm arrived. Today, resist the temptation to wait for your circumstances to settle before you rest. The Prince of Peace already lives inside you. Rest in Him now.

Reflection: What circumstance are you waiting on before you allow yourself to have peace? Bring that to the Lord today.

Day 2: The Light That Exposes Deception**Reading: Psalm 119:130; Ephesians 5:8-14**

Devotional: Deception does not announce itself. It enters quietly, slowly shifting your perception of truth until what is false begins to feel natural. Jesus warned that deception would be one of the defining characteristics of the last days, and the remedy He prescribed was not cleverness or political awareness -- it was truth. The entrance of God's Word brings light, and light exposes what darkness conceals. When you neglect the Word, you are essentially walking through your life with the lights off. Open the Word daily. Let it illuminate your path and guard your mind against the lies of the enemy.

Reflection: Where in your life might you be believing something that does not align with what God says? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it.

Day 3: Standing Firm When the World Is Shaking**Reading: Matthew 24:3-13; Psalm 46:1-3**

Devotional: Jesus did not describe the turmoil of the last days to frighten His followers. He described it to prepare them. Wars, rumors of wars, famines, and lawlessness are not signs that God has lost control -- they are signs that His Word is precisely accurate. When the news cycle floods your mind with chaos, remember that God knew every headline before it was written. He is not alarmed. He is not scrambling. He is seated on His throne, and by His grace,

Ephesians 2:6 reminds us that you are seated there with Him. You are not the mouse in the maze. You have access to the view from above.

Reflection: How does knowing that God foresaw the troubles of this age change the way you respond to difficult news?

Day 4: Love That Does Not Grow Cold

Reading: Matthew 24:12; Romans 5:3-5; 1 Corinthians 13:7-8

Devotional: Jesus warned that as lawlessness increases, the love of many would grow cold. This is one of the subtler dangers of living in a turbulent world. Repeated exposure to injustice, betrayal, and hostility can harden a heart that was once tender. The enemy does not always come with a frontal assault. Sometimes he simply wears you down until you stop caring. The church must guard against this. Walking in love is not passive -- it is an act of spiritual resistance. When the culture grows cold, believers are called to burn brighter. Your love, rooted in Christ, is a witness that the world cannot explain away.

Reflection: Is there a person or situation that has caused your love to cool? Bring it before the Lord and ask Him to renew a spirit of genuine love within you.

Day 5: Salt, Light, and Enduring Peace

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16; Isaiah 26:3; 2 Timothy 1:7

Devotional: The world is watching believers to see whether their faith is real. When chaos surrounds you and you remain steady, that steadiness is a sermon. When fear grips a community and you walk in a sound mind, that soundness is a testimony. God did not give you a spirit of fear. He gave you power, love, and a sound mind -- and those gifts are meant to be visible. You are salt in what is decaying and light in what is dark. Your peace is not just for your own comfort; it is a witness. Endure. Stay rooted in the Word. Keep your light on. The world needs to see what it looks like to trust God completely.

Reflection: Who in your life needs to see the peace of Christ demonstrated through you? How can you be intentional about letting your light shine this week?

The Peace of God Part 7 – Scripture References from the Sermon

Here are all the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

Directly Cited:

John 14:27 – Jesus gave us His peace.

John 16:33 – We don't have to yield to fear.

John 17:14 – We are in this world but not of it.

1 John 4:4 – We have the Greater One on the inside of us.

1 John 5:19 – The world is under the influence of satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4 – The devil is the god of this age.

Ephesians 2:2 – satan's spirit is working in the children of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:6 – We are seated in heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-12 – Our fight is spiritual not natural.

Matthew 24:3-15 – Jesus told us the condition of the world that we would be living in.

Isaiah 5:20 – This is the world we live in, a world that calls evil good and good evil and darkness light and light darkness.

2 Timothy 1:7 – We have a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind.

Alluded To Without Direct Citation:

Psalms 119:130 (entrance of God's word brings light)

Romans 12:19 (vengeance belongs to God)

Matthew 5:39 (turning the other cheek)

Matthew 5:13-14 (salt and light)

2 Corinthians 10:5 (taking thoughts captive)

Exodus 14 (Israelites at the Red Sea)

Acts (general reference to persecution of disciples)

Proverbs 27:20 (eyes of man never satisfied)

Daniel (reference to the abomination of desolation, connected to **Matthew 24:15**)

John 8:32 (truth will set you free)

The Peace of God Part 7 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

The Peace of God - Part 7

Overview

This session explores how believers can maintain the peace of Christ in a world marked by deception, conflict, and unrest. Drawing from **Matthew 24** and **John 14 and 16**, this guide will help your group understand what Jesus said about the condition of the world, why He said it, and how we are equipped to live in peace in the midst of it.

Key Scriptures

- **John 14:27** - Jesus promises His peace and instructs His followers not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid.
 - **John 16:33** - Jesus declares that in Him there is peace, and that in the world there will be tribulation, but that He has overcome the world.
 - **Matthew 24:3-15** - Jesus describes signs of the end times, including deception, wars, and lawlessness.
 - **Isaiah 5:20** - A warning about calling evil good and good evil.
 - **2 Timothy 1:7** - God has not given believers a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
 - **Ephesians 2:6** - Believers are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
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Key Takeaways

- 1. Peace comes from Christ, not circumstances.** The peace Jesus gives is internal and rooted in relationship with Him. Waiting for external circumstances to improve before resting in peace is a deception of the enemy.
- 2. Jesus prepared us in advance.** The troubles we see in the world did not catch God off guard. Jesus described these conditions before they arrived so that believers would be informed, not alarmed.
- 3. Deception is the enemy's primary weapon.** When individuals, cultures, or nations reject the truth of God's Word, they become vulnerable to every lie of the enemy. The entrance of God's Word brings light into darkness.
- 4. We are salt and light in the midst of trouble.** Believers are not meant to retreat from the world in fear. We are meant to be visible witnesses of God's peace so that others ask how it is possible.
- 5. Fellowship with God is not optional.** We were never designed to live outside of fellowship with the Lord. Regular time in the Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit keeps us from deception and keeps us in peace.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think of a time when your circumstances were difficult, but you experienced an unexpected sense of peace. What do you think made that possible?

Understanding the Sermon

1. The pastor said that God is not alarmed by the condition you are in because He knew before you got there that you would be there. How does that truth affect the way you approach your current challenges?
2. Jesus said in **John 16:33** that in the world believers will have tribulation, but that He has overcome the world. Why do you think it is important to hold both parts of that verse together rather than focusing on just one?

3. The pastor described deception as darkness and said that when truth is rejected, something else fills the vacuum. What are some ways you have seen this play out in culture or in personal experience?
4. Read **Matthew 24:3-15** together as a group. Which of the signs Jesus described stands out most to you as something you see happening today? How does knowing Jesus predicted these things affect your response to them?
5. The pastor said that because lawlessness abounds, the love of many grows cold, and that it is vital for the church to walk in love. Why do you think love is specifically what gets threatened when lawlessness increases? What does it take to keep love from growing cold?

Going Deeper

6. The pastor used the image of a mouse in a maze and said that believers sometimes think they are the mouse trying to figure things out on their own, when in reality **Ephesians 2:6** says we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. What would it look like practically to view your situation from that elevated perspective rather than from inside the maze?
7. The pastor warned that social media and news media can become tools that steal our peace if we are not careful. How do you personally manage the flow of information in your life? Are there any adjustments you feel prompted to make?
8. The pastor said that the Word of God is the only fixed point in a culture that has lost its moral compass. Do you agree? What does it look like to anchor yourself to that fixed point on a daily basis?

Personal Reflection

9. The pastor said that some of our trouble is self-inflicted because we simply did not obey. Without going into unnecessary detail, can you identify an area of your life where greater obedience to God's Word would produce greater peace?
10. The pastor said that people should look at believers and ask how it is possible to have peace when so many troubling things are happening. Would the people in your life describe you as someone who has that kind of peace? What might need to change for that to be true?

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One or More of the Following:

Limit your information intake with intention. Set a specific boundary around how much news or social media you consume each day. Replace that time with Scripture reading or prayer and notice how it affects your sense of peace over the course of the week.

Identify one area of deception to bring into the light. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where you may have accepted an untruth about yourself, your circumstances, or God. Bring it to Scripture and ask God to replace it with truth.

Practice viewing your situation from above. When you face a problem this week, pause before reacting. Pray and ask God to show you the situation from His perspective. Write down what you sense He is saying and compare it to what His Word says.

Walk in love intentionally. Given the pastor's warning that lawlessness causes love to grow cold, identify one person in your life toward whom it has become easy to be cold or indifferent. Choose one deliberate act of love toward that person this week.

Review previous messages in the series. If you or someone in your group missed earlier sessions of The Peace of God series, access them through the church app or website and use them as a foundation for continued conversation.

Closing Thought for the Group Leader

Close your time together by reminding the group that Jesus did not describe the condition of the world to frighten His followers. As the pastor said, He wrote what He wrote to prepare us. Invite group members to pray together, specifically asking God to strengthen each person's fellowship with Him so that the peace of Christ guards their hearts and minds in the week ahead. Encourage one another that the Prince of Peace lives inside every believer, and that is greater than anything happening in the world around them.