
The Peace of God Part 1 – When The Inside Is Stronger Than The Outside

5-Day Devotional:

Day 1: Peace Within the Trouble

Reading: Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 2:1-3

Devotional: The world creates trouble in peace, but God creates peace in trouble. Thomas Watson reminds us that when storms rage without, God makes peace within. This isn't circumstantial peace that depends on everything going right—it's the supernatural peace that comes from Christ's resurrection power. You live in a world influenced by the prince of the power of the air, yet you carry something greater inside: the very presence of God. Today, recognize that your battle isn't primarily against circumstances but against spiritual forces. When you feel overwhelmed by external chaos, remember that the peace of God is already sealed within you by the Holy Spirit. Your inside can be stronger than your outside.

Reflection: What external troubles are you facing today? How can you shift your focus from the storm around you to the peace within you?

Day 2: Spiritually Minded First

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:4, 18; Colossians 3:1-2

Devotional: Paul instructs us to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things. This isn't escapism—it's strategic warfare. Every manifestation of death, sickness, and destruction in the natural realm began first in the spiritual. When Adam and Eve cooperated with Satan's rebellion, sin gained access to God's perfect creation. But you're moving in reverse direction as a born-again believer. You're part of the greatest reversal humanity has ever seen. Stop fighting natural battles with natural weapons. Your adversary operates in the spiritual realm, which means your victory must be accessed there first. Being heavenly minded makes you an effective believer because you're operating from God's perspective, not circumstances. Today, choose to see beyond what your eyes show you.

Reflection: In what areas of life are you relying too heavily on natural solutions while neglecting spiritual weapons?

Day 3: Sober and Vigilant

Reading: 1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: Your adversary prowls like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Notice that crucial word: "may." He cannot simply devour anyone he chooses. When you remain sober and vigilant, you become a "may not." The enemy seeks permission through open doors—fear, unforgiveness, ignorance, or passivity. But you have been given authority in Jesus' name to resist him steadfastly in faith. This isn't crying to God asking Him to do something about the devil; it's you standing firm in the armor already provided. Your spiritual weaponry shouldn't be sitting on the sidelines collecting dust. Stay soldiered up always. You're not waiting for the enemy to come to you—you're advancing against his camp. Inside you dwells the Lion of the tribe of Judah, a giant-slayer who takes territory.

Reflection: What spiritual armor have you neglected? How can you move from defensive to offensive faith today?

Day 4: Sealed with the Spirit

Reading: Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 John 5:18-20

Devotional: You've been vacuum-sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise. One-third of your being is wall-to-wall Holy Ghost. The very nature of God—His peace, power, and presence—lives inside you right now. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one, but you are of God. You're not "only human"; you're a supernatural being indwelt by the Creator of the universe. Stop looking outward for peace when you should be fellowshiping inward with the Prince of Peace Himself. The enemy works to create fear, doubt, and strife, trying to disconnect you from the reality of who lives within you. But greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. Your God is not just for you—He's IN you.

Reflection: How does knowing you're sealed with the Holy Spirit change your approach to today's challenges?

Day 5: Strong and Doing Exploits

Reading: Daniel 11:32; Romans 8:37-39

Devotional: "Those who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." Knowing God isn't intellectual knowledge—it's intimate fellowship that produces supernatural strength. You are called to be strong and do exploits, not merely survive until heaven. The righteousness of God lives in you right now. No matter what you feel on the outside, you are transformed on the inside. Jesus made you victorious, powerful, and equipped for spiritual warfare. Your marriages, families, and church are meant to be strong because you're drawing from divine strength. Don't approach your faith walk solely through psychology and natural methods. Begin in the Spirit first. The battle is real, but so is your authority. You're not a victim—you're more than a conqueror through Christ who loved you and gave Himself for you.

Reflection: What exploits is God calling you to accomplish? How will you move forward in strength today?

The Peace Of God Part 1 – Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Ephesians 2:1-2** - "And you he made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins... according to the prince of the power of the air"
2. **2 Corinthians 4:4** - "Whose minds the God of this age has blinded who do not believe"
3. **1 John 5:19** - "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one"
4. **1 Peter 5:8-9** - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour"
5. **Genesis 1-3** - Referenced regarding the creation account and the fall of Adam and Eve

Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:

6. **Ephesians 6:12** - "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood" (referenced but not quoted directly)
7. **Colossians 3:2** - "Set your mind on things above" (Paul's instruction mentioned)
8. **John 10:10** - Alluded to regarding "steals, kills, and destroys"

9. **Ephesians 1:13** - "Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise"
 10. **Ephesians 2:6** - "Seated in heavenly places" (referenced regarding believers' position)
 11. **Romans 8:11** - "The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead" (mentioned)
 12. **Daniel 11:32** - "Those who know their God will be strong and do exploits"
 13. **2 Corinthians 5:21** - "The righteousness of God in Christ" (referenced)
 14. **2 Timothy 4:7** - "Fight the good fight of faith" (alluded to)
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The Peace Of God Part 1 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

When the Inside is Stronger Than the Outside

Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker

Ice Breaker: Share a time when you experienced unexpected peace during a difficult situation. What made that moment memorable?

Key Scripture References

- **Ephesians 2:1-2**
 - **2 Corinthians 4:4**
 - **1 John 5:19**
 - **1 Peter 5:8-9**
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Main Points Summary

1. **We live in a world influenced by spiritual forces**
 - The prince of the power of the air works in the sons of disobedience
 - Our battle is spiritual, not merely natural

2. Peace begins in the Spirit, not in circumstances

- God created peace in trouble when He raised Jesus from the dead.
- The peace of God lives inside believers through the Holy Spirit.

3. We must be spiritually minded and vigilant

- Set our minds on things above.
- Be sober and vigilant against our adversary.
- Resist the enemy steadfastly in faith.

4. Believers have authority and weaponry

- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- The nature of God lives inside us.
- We can resist the enemy in Jesus' name by submitting and acting on the Word of God.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Pastor mentioned that "the world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble." What does this statement mean to you personally?
2. Read **Ephesians 2:1-2** together. How does understanding that we live in a world under spiritual influence change your perspective on daily challenges?
3. What does it mean practically to be "spiritually minded first" rather than "naturally minded first"?

Going Deeper

4. The sermon emphasized that we often look for answers in the natural while forgetting the spiritual. Can you identify areas in your life where you've been fighting natural battles instead of spiritual ones?
5. Discuss the statement: "If you're truly heavenly minded, you're always earthly good." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

6. Read **1 Peter 5:8-9**. What does it mean to be "sober" and "vigilant" in today's context? What are practical ways to maintain this posture?

Personal Reflection

7. Pastor said, "Some of you have all the weaponry you need sitting on the sidelines with dust on it." What spiritual weapons or disciplines have you neglected that you need to pick back up?
8. How does knowing that you are "vacuum sealed" with the Holy Spirit impact your confidence in facing life's challenges?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **The peace of God is internal, not dependent on external circumstances.**
- ✓ **Our primary battle is spiritual, requiring spiritual weapons and awareness.**
- ✓ **We have been given authority through Jesus' name to resist the enemy.**
- ✓ **Being spiritually vigilant is not optional—it's essential for victorious living.**
- ✓ **The Holy Spirit within us is greater than any external force against us.**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose at least two of the following to implement this week:

1. Daily Spiritual Awareness

- Each morning, consciously acknowledge the Holy Spirit living in you.
- Declare: "I have the peace of God inside of me right now."
- Set your mind on spiritual realities before checking your phone or news.

2. Armor Up

- Read Ephesians **6:10-18** daily.

- Literally speak out each piece of armor and what it represents.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make you aware of spiritual battles before they manifest naturally.

3. Peace Inventory

- Identify one area where you're seeking peace through natural means only.
- Bring that area to God in prayer, asking for His supernatural peace.
- Journal what happens when you shift from natural striving to spiritual rest.

4. Vigilance Practice

- When anxiety or fear arises, pause and ask: "Is this a spiritual attack?"
- Resist immediately in Jesus' name rather than trying to fix it naturally first.
- Keep track of how this changes your experience.

5. Scripture Immersion

- Like Pastor mentioned painting while listening to Ephesians on repeat, choose a book of the Bible to listen to on the church app while you are working around the house or exercising.
- Listen to it multiple times this week.
- Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit highlights to you.

Prayer Focus

Pray together as a group:

- For increased spiritual awareness and discernment.
 - For the peace of God to guard hearts and minds.
 - For strength to resist the enemy steadfastly.
 - For marriages, families, and the church to be strong and unified.
 - That each person would experience the reality of Christ in them.
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Homework: Pay attention this week to where you see the enemy attempting to create "fear, doubt, unbelief, and strife" in your relationships or circumstances.

Closing Thought

"When the inside is stronger than the outside, you can have peace in the storm. The very nature of God—including His peace—lives inside you right now through the Holy Spirit. You are El Guapo (the handsome/strong one) on the inside!"

Group Leader Notes:

- Speaking and discussing the truth of the Word of God in our grow groups is the environment that we are looking for.
- Remind the group that awareness of the enemy should empower, not frighten.
- Emphasize the victory we have in Christ.
- Follow up during the week with group members.