

The Peace of God Part 4 – When the Inside Is Stronger Than the Outside

Key Points:

- The peace believers carry is not their own but the very peace of Jesus, given directly to them as described in **John 14:27**.
- God's peace is internal and supernatural, not dependent on favorable external circumstances.
- Believers are the temple of God, meaning they carry God's peace within them wherever they go.
- **Colossians 3:15** instructs believers to let the peace of God act as an umpire or judge, controlling and determining their responses to life's situations.
- Tribulation is a certainty in this world, but Jesus has overcome the world, making good cheer and peace possible in the midst of it.
- The enemy, not God, is the source of stealing, killing, and destroying, as established in **John 10:10**.
- Believers must take every thought captive and refuse to allow their minds to be ruled by fear or anxiety.
- Speaking the Word of God aloud is a key practice for steering the heart and mind toward peace.
- Resistance of the enemy through submission to God causes the enemy to flee, not the believer.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Theme: Walking in the Peace of God

Day 1: A Peace That Belongs to You

Reading: John 14:27

Devotional: Jesus did not offer a temporary calm or a fragile truce with circumstance. He gave His own peace -- the very peace that sustained Him through betrayal, suffering, and the cross. This is not borrowed peace. It is transferred peace. The same internal stillness that kept Christ unshaken now lives inside every believer. The world offers peace as a reward for resolved problems. God offers peace as a gift before the problems are resolved. Today, stop waiting for your circumstances to settle before you receive what has already been given. His peace is yours right now.

Day 2: Overcoming the World Through Christ**Reading: John 16:33**

Devotional: Jesus did not promise a life without tribulation. He promised something far greater -- a Conqueror living inside you. The word "tribulation" here carries the weight of pressure, crushing, and constriction. Jesus acknowledged that life would press hard against you. But He also declared that He has already overcome every force this world can bring. Your good cheer is not a denial of difficulty. It is a declaration of victory already won. You are not fighting for a win. You are living from one. Stand today not in your own strength, but in the finished work of Christ.

Day 3: Let Peace Be Your Umpire**Reading: Colossians 3:15**

Devotional: The Apostle Paul instructs believers to let the peace of God act as a ruling authority in their hearts. The Greek word used here carries the image of an umpire -- one who calls the outcome and governs the response. Every day, circumstances will throw pitches at your soul. Fear, anxiety, offense, and uncertainty will all take their turn. The question is not whether the pitch comes. The question is who calls it. When you submit your responses to the peace of God rather than to your emotions or surroundings, you stop being ruled by what is happening around you and start being governed by what lives within you.

Day 4: Faith That Holds in the Den

Reading: Daniel 6:18-23

Devotional: Daniel did not walk out of the lion's den because the lions were not dangerous. He walked out because he trusted a God who was greater. The king lost sleep. Daniel did not. That contrast is the testimony. The same God who shut the mouths of lions is the God who lives inside you. The enemy will construct situations designed to devour your peace, your faith, and your future. But innocence before God carries a weight that no earthly court can overturn. When you are found faithful before Him, no weapon formed against you will be able to finish its work.

Day 5: Stand, Speak, and Let Peace Rule**Reading: Mark 4:35-41**

Devotional: Jesus was asleep in a sinking boat. That is not indifference. That is the portrait of a mind fully rested in the Father. When He rose and spoke to the storm, peace was not created -- it was released from within Him. You carry that same Spirit. When your circumstances scream that everything is falling apart, you have the authority to stand up and declare what God has already established. Take every racing thought captive. Resist the enemy by submitting to God. The peace of God is not passive. It is a force. Let it rule, let it speak, and let it lead you through.

The Peace of God Part 4 – Scripture References from the Sermon

Directly referenced or read:

John 14:27 - Jesus leaving His peace with His disciples and telling them not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid.

John 16:33 - Jesus telling His disciples they will have tribulation in the world but to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world.

Colossians 3:15 - The instruction to let the peace of God rule in hearts, being called in one body, and being thankful.

Daniel 6:18-23 - The account of Daniel in the lion's den, the king's distress, and Daniel's deliverance.

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus sleeping in the boat during the storm and calming the sea.

John 10:10 - The enemy coming to steal, kill, and destroy, contrasted with Jesus coming to give abundant life.

Matthew 24 - Jesus' foretelling wars and signs of the end times.

1 Corinthians 6:19 - The believer's body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 10:5 - Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Ephesians 6:13-14 - Having done all to stand, standing firm in spiritual armor.

James 4:7 - Submitting to God and resisting the devil so he will flee.

James 3:4 - The tongue acting as a rudder that steers a ship.

Proverbs 18:21 - The power of life and death residing in the tongue.

John 8:36 - Whom the Son sets free is free indeed.

1 John 4:4 - Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

Philippians 4:19 - God supplying all needs according to His riches in glory.

The Peace of God Part 4 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

Overview

The central theme is that believers are called to let the peace of God actively rule, or umpire, every area of their lives rather than allowing circumstances, fear, or anxiety to dictate their responses. This peace is not fragile, not circumstantial, and not external. It is the very peace of Jesus Christ dwelling within every believer.

Key Scriptures

- **John 14:27** -- Jesus declares that he leaves his peace with his followers, giving them his own peace, which is unlike anything the world offers, and calls them not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid.
- **John 16:33** -- Jesus acknowledges that trouble will come in this world, yet calls believers to have good cheer because he has already overcome the world.
- **Colossians 3:15** -- Believers are instructed to let the peace of God rule, or act as umpire, in their hearts, and to be thankful.
- **Daniel 6:18-23** -- Daniel's trust in God while in the lion's den results in his miraculous protection, because he believed in his God.
- **Mark 4:35-41** -- Jesus sleeps in a storm-tossed boat, demonstrating the peace of God in action, then speaks peace over the storm.

Key Takeaways

1. The peace we have as believers is not fragile or circumstantial. It is the actual peace of Jesus Christ, living on the inside of us.
2. The word "rule" in **Colossians 3:15** carries the meaning of an umpire or judge. We are called to let peace call the shots in our lives, not our emotions, fears, or circumstances.
3. Trouble in this world is not a surprise to God. Jesus told us it would come. The question is not whether trouble will arrive, but how we will respond to it.
4. God is not the source of tribulation. **John 10:10** draws a clear line between the enemy, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy, and Jesus, who came to give life abundantly.
5. We are the temple of God. His peace does not live in a building. It lives in us, which means we carry it everywhere we go.
6. Gratitude strengthens the manifestation of peace in our lives. Grumbling disrupts it.
7. Keeping our minds fixed on the Lord is not optional for those who want to walk in peace. Taking every thought captive is a discipline of faith, not a feeling.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think of a time when you had peace in the middle of a difficult situation. What do you think made that possible? Think of a time when you did not have peace in a difficult situation. Looking back, what was different?

Digging Into the Word

1. In **John 14:27**, Jesus says he gives his peace, not as the world gives. What do you think the world's version of peace looks like? How is it different from what Jesus offers?
2. **John 16:33** tells us we will have tribulation in this world, but also calls us to have good cheer. Why is good cheer possible even in the middle of trouble? What is it based on?
3. **Colossians 3:15** uses the image of an umpire to describe how peace should function in our lives. In practical terms, what does it look like for peace to "call the shots" in a situation you are currently facing?
4. Daniel was found innocent before God, not before the people who accused him. How does that distinction matter when we are facing situations where others may have treated us unjustly? How does walking in peace connect to trusting God's judgment over human judgment?
5. Jesus was asleep in the boat during the storm. What does that tell us about the relationship between keeping your mind on God and walking in peace? What makes that difficult in everyday life?

Going Deeper

6. The sermon makes the point that God is not the one causing your tribulation. How does knowing the source of trouble change the way you respond to it?
7. The sermon says that peace is a witness to the world around you. Can you think of a time when someone's peace in a hard situation made an impression on you, or when your peace made an impression on someone else?
8. James 3 compares the tongue to a rudder that steers a ship. The sermon connects this to the importance of what we say in the middle of difficult circumstances. How does what we say out loud during hard times either reinforce or undermine the peace of God in our lives?

Personal Reflection

9. Are there areas of your life right now where you have been letting fear, anxiety, or circumstances act as the umpire instead of the peace of God? What would it look like to make a change in that area this week?
 10. The sermon closes with a warning that after leaving, the enemy will try to get you to forget what you heard and bombard your mind with contrary thoughts. What is one specific thing you can do this week to hold onto what God spoke to you today?
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Practical Applications

Daily Declaration Begin each morning this week by saying out loud: "I have God's peace in me. I will let the peace of God rule in my heart. I do not let my flesh and natural circumstances rule me. The peace of God is my umpire."

Mind Management Identify one recurring anxious or fearful thought pattern that tends to take over during the week. When that thought comes, practice stopping it and replacing it with a truth from Scripture. Write that truth down somewhere visible so you are reminded of it daily.

Gratitude as a Peace Builder Since the sermon connects thankfulness to the strengthening of peace, keep a simple written list this week of things you are grateful for. Add to it each day. Notice whether consistent gratitude affects how you respond to stressful moments.

Standing in the Storm If a difficult situation arises this week, before reacting out of emotion or fear, pause and ask: "What does the peace of God say about this?" Practice letting that question redirect your response.

Accountability Share with one person in your group one specific area where you want to walk in greater peace. Check in with each other before the next meeting about how that is going.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together over these areas:

- That each member would grow in awareness of the peace of God living inside them.
- That the peace of God would act as umpire in specific situations each person is currently facing.
- That your group would be a consistent witness to the world through the peace you carry.

- That minds would be kept fixed on the Lord throughout the week ahead.
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Study notes and additional resources from this sermon are available through the church app, website, and YouTube channel.