

## The Peace of God Part 8 – When the Inside Is Stronger Than the Outside

### Key Points:

- The peace of God is internal and spiritual, not dependent on external world conditions, as Jesus declared in **John 14:27** and **John 16:33**.
- Every visible conflict in the earth has an invisible spiritual dimension involving the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness.
- The sign of nations rising against nations includes not only geopolitical warfare but also the stirring of ethnic hostility, which believers must reject entirely.
- Racism and ethnic hatred are incompatible with a genuine walk with God and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
- Famines are increasing globally and will continue until Christ's return, but God's covenant provides protection and provision for his people, as demonstrated repeatedly in Scripture.
- Pestilence, including modern epidemics and diseases, is a sign of the end times, but believers have a covenant of healing and divine protection through the blood of Jesus and **Psalms 91**.
- Believers are called to confess the Word of God over themselves and their families rather than yielding to fear.
- The church is not only to receive God's provision but to overflow as a blessing and witness to those in need around them.

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## The Peace of God Part 8 - 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

### 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

**Themes: Peace, Faith, Protection, Provision, and Victory in Christ**

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## Day 1: The Peace That Surpasses Understanding

### **Reading: John 14:27 and John 16:33**

**Devotional:** Jesus did not promise his followers a life free from turbulence. He promised something far greater -- a peace that originates from within rather than from outward circumstances. The world offers temporary calm that depends entirely on favorable conditions. The peace Christ gives operates independently of what surrounds you. When nations are in conflict, when headlines are alarming, and when uncertainty presses in from every side, the believer has access to a settled, internal rest that the world cannot manufacture or take away. Today, choose to receive what Christ has already given you. His peace is not a feeling you must chase. It is a gift you must accept.

**Practical Application:** Write down one situation currently stealing your peace. Speak aloud over it: "Jesus said I can have peace in any situation. I walk his peace now."

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## Day 2: Greater Is He Who Is in You

### **Reading: 1 John 4:4 and Romans 8:11**

**Devotional:** One of the enemy's most effective strategies is to make the darkness appear larger than the light. When you observe conflict, sickness, and disorder in the world, it can feel as though darkness is winning. But the Word of God corrects that perception entirely. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives inside every born-again believer. That is not a poetic metaphor. It is a spiritual reality with practical consequences. The power dwelling within you is not equal to the power of the enemy -- it is categorically superior. You are not fighting for victory. You are fighting from a position of victory already secured.

**Practical Application:** Memorize **1 John 4:4** this week. When fear or anxiety arises, quote it aloud as a declaration rather than a question.

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## Day 3: Covenant Provision in Times of Famine

### **Reading: Psalm 37:25 and Philippians 4:19**

**Devotional:** Throughout Scripture, God consistently provided for his people in the middle of shortage, not after it ended. Joseph interpreted a dream and preserved nations. Elijah was fed by ravens in the wilderness. A widow's oil and flour never ran dry. These are not ancient

curiosities. They are covenant demonstrations of a God who does not abandon his people when the natural supply runs out. The believer is not called to deny the reality of economic hardship or food insecurity in the world. Rather, the believer is called to stand on the promises of a God whose resources are not subject to market conditions, political instability, or climate events.

**Practical Application:** Identify one tangible way this week to be a vessel of provision for someone in need. Ask the Lord to use you as part of his answer to someone else's famine.

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#### **Day 4: Standing on the Covenant of Healing**

**Reading:** Psalm 91:3 and Psalm 91:10

**Devotional:** Pestilence is not a new problem, and Scripture does not pretend otherwise. Jesus himself acknowledged that disease and plague would mark the season before his return. But he did not say this to produce fear -- he said it to produce readiness and faith. **Psalm 91** is not a passive poem. It is an active declaration of covenant protection for those who dwell in the presence of God. The believer has every right to stand against sickness, to lay hands on the sick, to pray over children and family members, and to resist disease the same way one would resist any other attack of the enemy. The blood of Jesus is not a symbol. It is a living, active force.

**Practical Application:** Pray **Psalm 91** aloud over your household today. Lay hands on each family member if possible and declare the covenant of protection that belongs to you in Christ.

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#### **Day 5: Do Not Yield to the Spirit of the Age**

**Reading:** Galatians 3:28 and Ephesians 6:10-12

**Devotional:** The enemy does not only work through disease and disaster. He also works through division -- stirring up hatred between ethnic groups, political factions, and generations, hoping that believers will be swept along with the current of the age rather than standing firm in the Spirit. The church is called to a radically different standard. We are to walk in the same forgiveness we have received from Christ, to see people after the Spirit rather than after the flesh, and to refuse every invitation to hatred, bitterness, or retaliation. The armor of

God is not decorative. It is functional. Put it on daily, stand your ground, and let the peace of Christ rule in your heart regardless of what the world is doing around you.

**Practical Application:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where the spirit of the age has influenced your thinking. Repent where needed, renew your mind in the Word, and declare: "I yield to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I have peace."

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## **The Peace of God Part 8 – Scripture References from the Sermon**

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

### **Explicitly Referenced:**

- **Matthew 24:1-8** (signs of the end times, including deception, wars, famines, pestilences)
- **John 14:27** (Jesus promising his peace)
- **John 16:33** (tribulation in the world, but Christ has overcome)
- **John 17:14** (believers are in the world but not of it)
- **1 John 4:4** (greater is he who is in us)
- **Galatians 2:20** (no longer I who lives, but Christ)
- **Ephesians 6:10-12** (principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness)
- **1 Timothy 2** (praying for nations and those in authority)
- **Galatians 3:28** (in Christ neither male nor female)
- **Psalm 37:25** (the righteous not forsaken nor his descendants begging bread)
- **Genesis 26** (Isaac provided for during famine)
- **1 Kings 17** (Elijah fed by ravens; widow's oil and flour)
- **Genesis 41** (Joseph preserving nations during famine)
- **Exodus 16** (manna in the wilderness)
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** (new creation, old things passed away)

- **Galatians 5:22-23** (fruit of the Holy Spirit)
  - **Romans 8:11** (the spirit that raised Christ from the dead)
  - **James 1:17** (every good and perfect gift from the Father)
  - **John 10:10** (the thief comes to steal, kill, destroy; Christ came for abundant life)
  - **Acts 10:38** (God anointing Jesus who healed all oppressed by the devil)
  - **Psalms 91:3** (deliverance from the snare and perilous pestilence)
  - **Psalms 91:10** (no evil shall befall you, nor any plague come near)
  - **Romans 10:17** (faith comes by hearing the word of God)
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21** (the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus)
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## The Peace of God Part 8 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

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### Overview

This session explores how believers can maintain the peace of God in the midst of global uncertainty, conflict, famine, and pestilence. Drawing from **Matthew 24**, the sermon reminds us that Jesus foretold these events not to frighten us but to prepare us, and that his peace within us is greater than any circumstance around us.

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### Key Takeaways

- Jesus warned us about the signs of the end times so that we would have faith, not fear. Understanding the Word builds confidence to face what we cannot handle on our own.
- Our peace is internal, not external. We are in the world but not of it, and the greater one lives inside every believer.
- Nation rising against nation includes both geopolitical conflict and ethnic division. Believers are called to walk in forgiveness and refuse the spirit of racial hatred and strife.

- Famine and pestilence are realities Jesus predicted, but God has a covenant of provision and healing for his people. We are not to deny these realities, but we are not to fear them either.
  - The church is called to be a solution in the earth, not just observers of its problems.
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## Discussion Questions

### Opening

1. When you hear news about wars, disease outbreaks, or food shortages, what is your first emotional response? How does your faith factor into that response?
  2. Had you ever considered that the difficult passages in Scripture, like **Matthew 24**, were written to build faith rather than to frighten? How does that perspective change the way you read them?
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### Nation Against Nation

3. The sermon described the word "rise" as meaning to stir or agitate, suggesting that demonic influence is behind the stirring of nations and ethnic groups toward conflict. How have you seen this kind of stirring at work in culture, in media, or even in your own community?
  4. The pastor said, "You cannot become racist reading the Bible. It is impossible to fellowship with God and become racist." Do you agree? What does genuine fellowship with God produce in the way we see other people?
  5. Is there an area in your life where you have allowed cultural tension or past hurt to stir up something that does not belong in a believer? How can the group pray with you about that?
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### Famine and Provision

6. The sermon referenced several biblical examples of God providing during famine, including Joseph, Elijah, the widow, and Israel in the wilderness. What do these stories have in common, and what do they teach us about how God works?

7. **Psalm 37:25** declares that the righteous are not forsaken and their descendants do not beg for bread. What does it look like practically to stand on that promise during seasons of financial pressure or scarcity?
  8. The pastor said believers should not only trust God for themselves but also believe for overflow so they can bless others. What is one tangible way your group could be a source of provision for someone in need right now?
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### **Pestilence and Healing**

9. The sermon was clear that God is not the author of sickness and that the devil is behind disease and plague. How does knowing the source of sickness change the way you pray for healing, either for yourself or for others?
  10. **Psalm 91** was referenced as a covenant of protection and healing. Do you regularly confess and pray Scripture over yourself and your family? If not, what has held you back?
  11. The pastor encouraged parents to lay hands on their children and declare the Word of God when sickness comes. Whether or not you are a parent, who in your life could benefit from you praying and declaring healing over them this week?
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### **Closing Reflection**

12. The sermon closed with this statement: "The covenant is yours." What does it mean to you personally that you have access to God's covenant of peace, provision, and protection? Is there an area where you have not been walking in that covenant fully?
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### **Practical Applications**

#### **This Week, Choose at Least One:**

- Write out **Psalm 91** and read it aloud over yourself and your household every morning for the next seven days.

- Identify one area where cultural tension, past hurt, or ethnic division has influenced your thinking. Bring it to God in honest prayer and ask him to replace it with his perspective.
  - Find a practical way to be a source of provision for someone around you, whether that is a meal, financial help, or simply sharing a resource you have.
  - The next time a family member or close friend faces sickness, pray and lay hands on them before reaching for any other solution. Add the other steps as needed but start with prayer.
  - Download the church app or visit the website to review previous messages in this series and catch up on any sessions you have missed.
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### **Closing Prayer Points**

- Pray for peace to rule in your hearts and homes regardless of world events.
- Pray for nations and leaders, that the gospel would go forth and that God's influence would prevail over darkness.
- Pray for those in the group who are facing sickness, financial pressure, or fear, and declare the covenant promises of God over them together.
- Thank God that he knew everything that would happen and that he has already made a way for his people.