

# Advent Series: *Peace Abides*

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 12/04/2016



## I. **Unsettled & Uneasy**

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## II. **True Peace Has Come**

Luke 2:8-14

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## III. **Jesus' Gift Of Peace**

John 14:27

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## IV. **Receiving & Sharing The Gift**

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## **Personal Reflection**

*Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:*

*Peace is more than the mere absence of conflict. True peace is a condition of the heart, mind & spirit that persists regardless of circumstances. The present world system asserts that power, pleasure & prestige can provide the peace for which the human heart longs. In the end however, these pursuits leave one empty & oftentimes, alone.*

*At Christmastime we are reminded that the incarnate Son of God came into the world to bring authentic & abiding peace. It is a peace that can never be earned & is freely given to all who accept. Through it, our hearts are secured from being overcome by fear & trouble. Its presence in our lives testifies to the enemies of God that their efforts will not succeed.*

*Have you experienced the authentic & abiding peace of God? Is your heart secure from fear & trouble because the Holy Spirit has fortified your heart with true peace? Are you sharing this peace with others—encouraging the downtrodden & testifying of God's love to the broken-hearted? When was the last time you took the opportunity to share the peace of a relationship with Christ to an unbelieving acquaintance, friend or family member?*

*Prayerfully express your thankfulness to God that through the Prince of Peace, we gain the security of knowing that our sins have been forgiven & we have been reconciled to God. Ask God to give you opportunities this Christmas to both show & share the peace of Christ with the world around you. Commit to be a peacemaker in your community, family, church, school & workplace. Resolve to trust & rely more deeply on God for His abiding peace in the coming year.*