

7 Day Devotional: Building and Giving Peace

Day 1: The Mental Frontier

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

The Focus: *Peace Building (The Mind)*

The Devotional: We often view our minds as passive screens that simply record whatever thoughts float by. Paul challenges this entirely. He commands us to "think on these things." The Greek word is *logizomai*, an accounting term that means to calculate or enter into a ledger. If we only calculate the bad news, outrage, and cynicism of this passing age, our minds will be bankrupt. We have to actively run the numbers on the kingdom.

The "Not Yet" Action: Audit your mental ledger today. For every piece of negative news or stressful content you consume, intentionally spend equal time reading scripture or identifying a sign of God's goodness in your life.

Day 2: Hunting for Truth

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

The Focus: *Peace Building (The Mind)*

The Devotional: Paul begins his mental filter with "*whatever is true.*" We live in an age of spin, misinformation, and curated illusions that stoke our anxieties. Truth is not merely factual correctness; it is the reality of God's world. To think on what is true means anchoring our minds in the unshakeable promises of scripture rather than the shifting narratives of human culture.

The "Not Yet" Action: Identify one specific lie or catastrophic "what-if" thought that has been circling your mind. Replace it directly by writing down a verse of scriptural truth on a sticky note where you can see it all day.

Day 3: Cultivating Nobility and Justice

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

The Focus: *Peace Building (The Mind)*

The Devotional: Paul commands us to dwell on whatever is "noble" (honorable) and "just" (right). The old age celebrates the cheap, the scandalous, and the self-serving. But the coming kingdom is defined by majestic dignity and perfect justice. When we feast on content or entertainment that mocks what is holy or celebrates injustice, we are poisoning our capacity for peace.

The "Not Yet" Action: Evaluate your media consumption today (TV shows, podcasts, social media feeds). Does it elevate your mind toward nobility, or does it drag you down into cynicism? Make one adjustment to filter out the noise.

Day 4: Protecting Purity and Loveliness

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

The Focus: *Peace Building (The Mind)*

The Devotional: To focus on what is "pure" and "lovely" is to look for the fingerprints of the New Creation in our current world. God has not completely abandoned this world to decay; His beauty breaks through in art, nature, acts of quiet kindness, and the love of community. These are foretastes of the future. When we colonize our minds with beauty, we are bringing the atmosphere of our future home into our present reality.

The "Not Yet" Action: Step outside or look around you today specifically to find something beautiful or pure. Pause for sixty seconds just to admire it and thank God for this preview of His coming kingdom.

Day 5: Admirable Accounting

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

The Focus: *Peace Building (The Mind)*

The Devotional: Paul finishes his list with whatever is "admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy." If you look for reasons to be angry at the church or the world, you will find them—the "not yet" is full of flaws. But if you look for reasons to praise God and admire His work in others, you will find those too. Peace is built when we choose to focus on the grace growing in people rather than the flaws that remain.

The "Not Yet" Action: Send a text or write a note to someone in your church community today. Tell them specifically what admirable or excellent Christlike quality you see growing in their life.

Day 6: Moving from Thought to Walk

Scripture: Philippians 4:9

The Focus: *Peace Giving (The Walk)*

The Devotional: Paul moves from the internal to the external:

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice." Peace is not an abstract theology to be debated; it is a life to be lived. We learn how to navigate the tension of the ages by watching others who do it well and imitating their stride.

The "Not Yet" Action: Think of a mature believer you know who possesses a deep, unshakeable peace. Reach out to them this week to ask for coffee or a quick phone call, simply to learn how they guard their heart in difficult times.

Day 7: The Presence of the God of Peace

Scripture: Philippians 4:9

The Focus: *Peace Giving (The Walk)*

The Devotional: In verse 7, Paul promises that the *peace of God* will guard us. But in verse 9, he ups the ante: when we actively put these kingdom habits into practice, the **"God of peace"** Himself will be with us. We do not have to white-knuckle our way through the frustrations of this world. The very God who holds the ultimate future is walking with you in the dust of today. You are an ambassador of the new world; go give His peace away.

The "Not Yet" Action: As you step out of your door today, take a deep breath and pray: *"God of peace, you are with me. Show me who needs your peace today, and use my walk to give it to them."*

The Making Of A Happy Church

New Life Centre July 19, 2026

Lasting Peace Part 2 – *Philippians 4:8-9*

Today's Word: Peace keeping is good, but God also calls us to become peace makers, peace builders and peace givers.

1. Peace Making – v2-3 The decision of our will.

2. Peace Keeping – v4-7- The decision of our heart.

3. Peace _____ – If we are to grow strong we need to learn how to build peace.

- Our spiritual battleground is between the _____
- v8 What are we to be thinking about? Whatever is:
 - True - Honourable - Just
 - Pure - Lovely - Commendable, good report
 - Excellent - Worthy of praise

- **Peace Building is the decision of our _____.**

4. Peace _____ – We have freely received and now we are to freely give.

- v9 We learn most effectively through imitation
- v9 Practice makes perfect – perfect peace
- v9 We can only give what we have received

- **Peace Giving is the decision of our _____.**

Philippians 4:7-9 ESV

⁷And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and **the God of peace** will be with you.