



PEACE

GOD'S POWER IN YOUR LIFE

It's a search that drives men and nations to great extremes—the search for peace. So much of our time, energy and resources are consumed with trying to find and keep peace with family members, friends, and neighbors.

But often, no matter how hard we try, peace eludes us. The war in our minds and hearts rages on and on. Where can we find peace?

THE WAR WITHIN

If you are having trouble finding peace in your life, you must first understand the source of the conflict that is troubling you. This war within has little to do with your surroundings and has everything to do with your soul.

The Bible says that, apart from Christ, we are *alienated from God*. We are actually His enemies (Colossians 1:21). Since mankind was originally created for fellowship with God (Genesis 3:8, 5:1), this separation from Him robs us of peace. Our own sinful actions leave us *without hope and without God* (Ephesians 2:12).

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

But God did not abandon us as if we were strangers. Because of His great love, God sent His only Son to restore peace between Himself and man and to die on the cross for our sins, enabling all men to come to God the Father through Him (John 3:16-18).

The Bible calls Jesus the *Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6). He came to earth to bridge the gap between sinful man and a Holy God. *"For he himself is our peace,"* the Apostle Paul said, *"... and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility"* (Ephesians 2:14).

You can end your own separation from God by yielding your life to the Prince of Peace. Only then can you have perfect peace in the midst of troubled times in

this world. If you have never known real peace, then turn to Jesus right now in prayer. It's very simple. In fact, it's your right! The Bible says, *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God* (John 1:12). Become His child today!

THE PROMISE OF PEACE

Every day will bring new challenges to your peace. But every day also holds a new promise of peace from God that is totally unlike the peace the world offers. Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid* (John 14:27).

As we learn to walk each day in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to experience the peace that is promised as part of the *fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22, Isaiah 32:17). Every time anxiety creeps into our lives, we can turn to the Lord and *the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:7).

ENEMIES OF PEACE

But just as the devil tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, so, too, he tempts Christians to forsake God's promise of peace. In his warfare against our souls (1 Peter 2:11), Satan uses every strategy at his disposal to sidetrack us and rob us of our peace (John 10:10). This is one of the primary missions that he and his demonic host have (1 Peter 5:8).

The enemy fights us every day through the situations and people we encounter. Satan also battles us in our internal thoughts and feelings (1 Timothy 3:7; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; 1 John 3:7-10, 12-15). Despite these fierce battles for our peace, we can be assured that God delights

in His children and helps us maintain our peace. Through Christ, we can come to God as our “Abba,” or “Daddy,” knowing that His love and His peace are perfect.

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ENSURING YOUR PEACE

If you are struggling to find peace, you are not alone. Consider the following scriptural advice to help you find, or regain, that missing peace:

CHANGE YOUR FOCUS. The Bible instructs us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2). As we change our focus—off of our problems and onto the Lord—His peace will fill our lives.

CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. Sometimes it is necessary to take a break from the things that trouble us, even for brief periods of time. Even great men and women of God have at times experienced times of devastating discouragement (1 Kings 19:3-5, 2 Corinthians 4:7-10). Try altering your physical setting for a short time. Also, take a close look at your lifestyle. You may be lacking peace simply because you are not following God’s pattern for rest.

CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE. Are you facing a difficult situation? The Bible says, *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Begin to thank God right now, and soon you will experience His peace in the midst of the storm.

AS YOU PRAY

“Dear Lord Jesus, I am lacking Your perfect peace. Please help me to turn my heart and mind toward You. I know that I am involved in a spiritual battle and that

the enemy seeks to destroy the peace I can have with God. Forgive me, Lord, for seeking peace apart from You and strengthen me according to Your Word. Amen.”

GOD’S WORD ON PEACE

Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts, offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel (Philippians 4:6-7).

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- A portrait of peace: (Psalm 23)
- Establishing peace in Jesus: (John 14:1-27, Ephesians 2:14-22)
- Peace in the Holy Spirit: (Romans 8:6, Ephesians 4:1-3)

Scripture is quoted from the NIV.



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