

The Promise of Peace – John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid.”

Context of the passage: In the upper room with the disciples shortly before Jesus is about to be handed crucified. In verse 16, He promises that the Helper, the Holy Spirit, will soon come to live in them forever. He promises that He would return in His resurrection and also the Spirit would come to dwell in them after His ascension. Right before His crucifixion, with His mind on His disciples, He gives this promise about peace.

Read John 14:27

A few things we learn about God’s peace from this passage:

1. God’s peace is a gift to believers from God
2. Jesus gives us *His* peace – not a copy or a *similar* peace – it’s *His* peace
3. Jesus doesn’t give like the world gives – He’s not stingy, He’s generous
4. God’s peace is not like the peace offered from the world
5. God’s peace helps us to not be afraid

Some other things we learn from scripture:

- God’s peace surpasses understanding (Phil 4:6-7)
- God is the God of peace (1 Thess 5:23, Heb 13:20)

The Bible says a lot about peace, but I think it’d be helpful to try to define it.

What God’s peace is not:

- The constant presence of happy feelings
- Denial of reality
- The absence of trouble

God’s peace is a security and calmness of heart that transcends circumstances and comes from God’s presence in our lives.

1. We experience God’s peace when we let Him rule in our lives (Jn 4:27, Col 3:15, Matt 6:25-34)

- The peace of God is a gift given to the believer, but we can either choose to enjoy, delight in, and rest in it or to not.
- “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” – Col 3:15
- How do you let God’s peace rule in your life?

Matthew 6:25-34

- Jesus gives the solution to worry and anxiety – Seek His kingdom first. We are able to rest in His peace when we prioritize and surrender to His kingdom above our own. (Matthew 6:25-34)
- One way the world says we can have peace is, “Don’t worry about what you can’t control and only worry about what you can.”
 - James 4:13-15 says that you have no control

- But when you surrender that to God, and you submit to His control – Then you can rest in God’s peace
- Hold your desires with an open hand and don’t get your heart set on anything other than God and His kingdom. When you do that, your world won’t crumble when things don’t go your way.
- Peace comes when we hold our dreams with open hands and have our hearts set on the right things

Practical Application: Change the priorities of your prayers – when you prioritize God’s kingdom over your own, you will be able to rest in His peace.

2. God’s peace can be experienced no matter what life’s circumstances (Jn 4:27, Philip 4:7, Is 26:3)

- God’s peace is not the absence of trouble. We don’t get God’s peace by getting rid of our problems, God’s peace meets us in our problems.

How do we rest in God’s peace, even in the middle of horrible circumstances?

i. Use God’s promises to shape the way you think about your problems (Philip 4:7-10, Isaiah 26:3)

- Isaiah 26:3 says, “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”
- There are 2 primary messages the world gives when bad things happen - “You just need to get your mind off this – Let’s go eat, drink, be merry, and not worry about it” or “only think positive thoughts” – Both deny reality
- Christian peace looks at problems head-on and speaks to them with biblical truth. We find peace in using what we know about God to think through life’s circumstances
- The first step to experiencing God’s peace in any and all circumstances is to think about the world and your problems in light of God’s promises.

Practical Application: Preach the gospel to yourself daily

ii. Pray continually with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7)

- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7
- How is it possible to be thankful as we submit our requests to God before He even answers them?
- The secret to Paul’s contentment is that He knew that God knew best.
- “God will either give us what we ask for in prayer or give us what we would have asked for if we knew everything He knows.” – Tweet by Tim Keller, November 10, 2014, also Jeff Moorehead at some point

How do you get there? How can you pray in such a way that you trust that what God wants for you is better than what you want?

iii. Rest in God’s sovereignty

- How do you do that?
- In order to trust God like this, you have to love Him. How do you do that?
 - The more you know God, the more you'll love Him and the more you'll trust Him.
- How do you trust that God's way is better? You love Him. How do you love Him? You know Him. How do you know Him? You walk with Him.
- The story of Horatio Spafford, author of *It Is Well with My Soul*
 - How was it that he could write such lyrics at such a time? He thought about his problems in light of scripture, he trusted God's sovereignty, and he loved God.
- He loved God because He knew God – He knew God well enough to know that even though it was painful, God cared. He knew God well enough to know that even though he felt alone, God was able to relate to his loss.

Application: The way to rest in the peace of God in any of life circumstances is to think about your circumstances in light of God's promises, to pray with thanksgiving, and to love God.

iv. Let God's peace empower you to live peacefully with others (Rom 12:18, 14:19)

- When that happens, God's peace empowers us to live in harmony with other believers. When we're not living in fear or worry and we're resting in God's peace, we're able to live peacefully with others. (Rom 14:19)

3. **We must have peace with God before we can receive peace from God** (Rom 5:1, Col 1:20-22)

- We all have sin (Rom 3:23) and sin relationally separates us from God (Is 59:2)
 - Without Jesus, we are actually enemies of God (Rom 5:10, Col 1:21) because of *our* rebellion
 - Because of our rebellion, we're deserving of a punishment for divine treason (Rom 6:23)
 - We can't fix that relationship on our own
- "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this – that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Rom 5:8
 - Christ died for us while we were enemies (Col 1:20, Rom 5:8)
- Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this – that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- Receive the forgiveness He offers you by faith today (John 3:16, Acts 16:31, Rev 3:20)
- Hebrews 3:15 says if you hear His voice today do not harden your hearts. Turn to Jesus and be forgiven.