

Jesus Peace

A blog post by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
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John 14:27 (NKJV)

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 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The disciples' hearts were troubled because Jesus had just told them He was going away soon (back to His Father in heaven)—and they couldn't go with Him (they still had work to do on earth in spreading the gospel and building God's Kingdom).

So because fear and anxiety had gripped their hearts—the Lord Jesus made them (and all of His disciples) a precious promise—“**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...**”

This is a special, supernatural peace—the kind of peace that the world can't offer and knows nothing about.

When Jesus said that the *peace* He gives to those who belong to Him was “*not the kind of peace the world gives to troubled hearts*”—He's talking about the fallen world system that is controlled by the devil.

The devil knows that people can't function in an environment of stress, turmoil, anxiety and fear for very long without seeking relief (otherwise they might have a nervous breakdown). So, after ramping up their stress and fears—he (the devil) then tempts them to grab for 'peace' *through artificial means*.

The kind of so-called “*peace*” that the devil (and through him the world) offers people comes through drugs, alcohol, hypnosis, T.M., yoga—or whatever else will “help” a person escape the pressures they are experiencing in life.

For example, if their stress and lack of peace is the result of a volatile, combative marriage—the devil tells them the only peace they will have in that situation is separation and/or divorce—in other words a peace that comes from *escaping* the situation—by running away from their marriage.

In extreme times of anxiety, pressure and depression, the devil pushes many people into the ultimate escape—suicide. It's no mistake or accident that as our society devolves more and more into chaos, confusion, COVID madness and anarchy—that alcoholism, drug abuse and suicides have risen exponentially.

In contrast to this—Jesus said that He wants to give us *true* peace—*not like the world gives* (which is artificial and often destructive).

➤ **This peace is only found in Jesus**, as Paul the Apostle put in Ephesians 2:14—“*For He Himself is our peace...*”

True peace in life doesn't come from a *pill* or a *program*—it is only found in a Person, and His name is Jesus Christ!

The Bible talks about 2 different kinds of peace that are associated with God. Peace *with* God; and the peace *of* God. Make no mistake—you cannot know the '*peace of God*' without first experiencing '*peace with God*.'

A. Peace with God

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Word teaches us that we were born into this world as children of Adam—separated from God through the Fall and at enmity with Him (rebels at war with God) having the wrath of God (judgment) abiding upon us (John 3:36).

The Bible teaches that, at one time, God also considered us *His* enemies—in other words, He was at enmity with fallen man as well.

There are a lot of people who go through life determined not to speak with God or to acknowledge His presence or to bow to His will for their lives—in other words, they're at war with God.

Why are they at war with God?

- Because they blame Him for some tragedy or disappointment they have suffered in life.
- Maybe they lost someone dear to them to sickness or an accident of some kind—a spouse or a child or someone else they had a special relationship with.
- Or maybe it was the loss of health or the loss of a business they spent years building only to see it wiped away by the COVID lockdowns of last year—or some other tragedy.

Because of it they blame God and want nothing to do with Him—they hate God and have declared war on Him.

But listen, by far the greatest number of people at war with God don't even know that they *are* at war with Him—they would say, "*I've never been at war with God, I love God!*" And as a 'proof' of their '*love*' for God—they point to how '*religious*' they are!

What they don't realize is that *religion* is another form of rebellion against God—the very rebellion the Jewish people manifested toward God through their devotion to Judaism (a religious system) while having rejected Jesus as their Savior and King.

Romans 10:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

So, returning to the point I was making—the Bible presents a picture of God and man after the Fall with their backs turned toward each other, “arms folded,” you might say, signifying the enmity both had for one another.

But then Jesus died on the cross for sinners—and at that moment God’s righteousness was satisfied (‘propitiated’) because sin had now been paid for. The result was that God turned and faced man (who still had his back turned toward God in stubborn rebellion), God turned toward us with His hands extended inviting us to come to Him for forgiveness, fellowship and eternal life.

When a person accepts God’s offer of forgiveness and comes to Jesus for salvation—that person is forgiven—saved—and now is in perfect, loving fellowship with God!

Imagine, if you will—**God and man now ‘face to face’ in blessed communion** (oneness) with each other.

This is what Paul meant in Romans 5:1 when he said—“*Having been justified by faith [saved], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”—in other words, the ‘war’ is now over!

We have laid down our hostility toward God and His commandments, surrendered our lives to Him in obedience as His servants—and He in turn has forgiven us and adopted us into His family!

Now, **peace with God** (salvation) is essential if we are going to experience the second kind of peace the Bible talks about for the child of God (and only for the children of God)—

B. The Peace of God

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The **peace of God**, as wonderful and powerful as it is— isn’t automatic. This peace is *subjective* and depending on where we are in our walk with God at any given moment—it’s a peace that can ‘come and go’.

Now, let me put that thought on hold for a minute and come back to it—because this is the peace that we as Christians at this moment in our lives—are most concerned about having! The peace of the world (which in reality is a ‘peace’ due to escapism)—is the kind of peace King David flirted with in Psalm 55:

Psalms 55:4-8 (NKJV)

⁴ My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me. ⁵ Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me. ⁶ So I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. ⁷ Indeed, I would wander far off, *And* remain in the wilderness... ⁸ I would hasten my escape From the windy storm *and* tempest."

This is often the kind of peace people seek—a false peace due to ‘escapism’ (most often through the use of drugs and/or alcohol)—and listen, numbing yourself with a substance will bring some initial ‘peace.’ But it’s not a true and lasting peace—it’s an artificial peace that will lead a person into dependency to that drug and ultimately into bondage (where the ‘cure’ is worse than the problem they’re facing).

Whereas the peace that comes from Jesus is real, lasting and liberating!

It’s a true peace that the world knows nothing about because it’s a supernatural peace that comes directly from God and—“*surpasses human comprehension.*” (Philippians 4:7)

➤ However, the peace of God doesn't happen automatically once you become a Christian.

Many Christians still worry, still experience stress, still have nervous breakdowns—and even still commit suicide.

The reason is they aren't following the biblical injunctions for maintaining practical, everyday peace in their hearts—“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...” (Colossians 3:15)

By saying this Paul is implying that the peace of God *can* (and will) rule in our hearts if we let it—if we don't hinder or strangle it through worry by focusing our thoughts on the problem instead of on the God who can solve any problem (like Peter on the Sea of Galilee).

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.

To experience the peace of God, you need to have your thoughts “*stayed*” (fixed) on God—because you trust Him and have absolute confidence in His ability and promises (Romans 4:21).

This peace comes through faith—and faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Stay in God's Word. Trust the God of the Word and cling to His promises in this season of uncertainty—remembering, “*the just shall live by faith.*”

Remember the words of Paul the Apostle on the subject—

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.