



The Peace of God

“The Key To A Victorious Christian Life”

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July 2016 Rev. John Marinelli
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Introduction

We are living in a world that is full of anger, hate and suffering. We face the threats of terrorism, war, unemployment, racial unrest and economic collapse among other things. Finding peace is a lost art because the news keeps telling us all the bad stuff and why we should be afraid or worry.

Today is not that different than when the apostle Paul was on the earth. He lived in a time of economic stress, hate and hard times yet in the midst of all of life's trials, he writes to the fledgling church of the first century, "*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*" **Colossians 3:5**

How can one be thankful and remain at peace when another country has invaded yours and now rules with an iron hand? How can peace rule in the hearts of those that are enslaved, ridiculed and degraded? Those were the days of Roman rule.

I can answer these questions with a simple explanation of the scripture given above. But first, here are a few Bible verses to meditate upon.

Psalm 85:8...NIV...I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but to let them not turn to folly.

Phillipians 4:7...KJV...” And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Psalm 29:11...KJV...” The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.”

Psalm 119:165...KJV...” Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

John 6:33...KJV...” **These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**”

I Corinthians 14:33...KJV...” For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Psalm 37:37...KJV...” Mark the perfect (*Mature*) man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.”

Romans 14:7...KJV...” For the kingdom of God is righteousness and **peace** and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Great Trials Bring Great Victories

Craig Von Buseck, a contributing writer for CBN says in his CBN.org website article...excerpts follow.

Without great trials, we would have no great victories. The Lord reveals Himself in the difficulties of life as our Deliverer, our Sufficiency, and our Lord. The psalmist tells us, “*many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers [us] out of them all*” (**Psalm 34:19**).

If you are really serious about walking with God, He will teach you, and guide you, and comfort you, and yes, you will know His peace in your life. In fact, as you mature in your walk with the Lord, peace and joy will be multiplied to you. It is an interesting paradox that our heavenly Father orchestrates in our lives. On the one hand, our trials increase, as we grow stronger in the Lord. On the other hand, the fruit of the Spirit - including peace and joy - develop to the point that we are given grace to weather the

trials, and the rest of our lives are filled with harmonious fellowship with God.

We should expect to experience God's peace in our lives. If you are not walking in peace, it may be the result of several different scenarios. It may be that you are in the midst of a particular test or trial sent from God. Or you may be under attack from the devil. Or you may have an area of your life that you have not yet surrendered completely to God. The Lord intends for you to have peace. If you are not experiencing God's peace on an ongoing basis, you may need to ask the Holy Spirit to show you.

Most pastors will teach that when you are seeking to find God's will, you can identify the leading of the Holy Spirit when you sense God's peace about a matter. I agree, and I believe that is absolutely true. The peace of God is one of the key indicators of God's guidance. **Colossians 3:15** tells us to let the peace of God rule in [our] hearts. Peace is the umpire of our hearts, telling us if we are "safe" in God's will, or "out," following our own path or the deception of the devil.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, *“For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace” (Isaiah 55:12)*. God's best for our lives is that we will be led forth in peace and joy. Have you ever heard someone say, "I'm not going to allow these circumstances to rob my joy?" In making this declaration they are being absolutely biblical - peace and joy are our possessions when we are born again. The only way that you will walk in unrest as a mature believer is if you allow circumstances or the devil to rob you of your joy.

You may say, "The devil robbed my joy." The truth of the statement is that the devil attempted to rob you of your joy - but he only succeeded if you allowed him to take it from you.

The life of the Christian is one of peace and joy.

- That is why Paul and Silas could sing praises to God in the Philippian jail (**Acts 16:25**).
- That is why the apostles praised the Lord after being beaten by the teachers of the law, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame in Christ's name (**Acts 5:40-41**).

- That is why Stephen could praise the God of heaven as he was being stoned for his bold witness (**Acts 7:55-60**).

Supernatural Peace

There are times, when we are seeking the will of God and we reach the point of decision that we experience supernatural peace. This is an important aspect of discerning between good and evil, and it comes by reason of use (**Hebrews 5:14**). The peace of God is like a compass for our souls, leading us in the direction that the Holy Spirit intends for our lives. We can take great comfort in knowing that the sovereign God is so involved in our lives that He would supply us with this internal compass as we seek to do His will.

At the same time, the mature Christian will recognize that there is another way that God uses the fruit of peace to direct our steps. As we surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, He brings us to a place where we experience His blessed peace on an ongoing basis. Instead of anxiety, anger, or depression, the peace of God becomes the normal state of mind for the Christian.

The dictionary Defines The Peace of God This Way

Peace is a state of tranquility or quietness of spirit that transcends circumstances. The term *peace* is described in Scripture as a gift from God and congruent with His character (**1 Thessalonians 5:23; Galatians 6:16; 1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 13:20**).



Peace Passes All Understanding

GotQuestions.org

Philippians 4:7 refers to “the peace of God which transcends all understanding.” Most of Paul’s letters began with the words “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

If God is peace, then to know God is to bask in His peace. The closer we draw to Him, the more of His peace we can enjoy (**James 4:8**). God gives us clear instructions about how to draw near to Him. **Psalm 24:3–4** says, “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.” But Scripture is also clear that we cannot make ourselves clean enough or pure enough to earn the presence of the Lord (**Romans 3:10, 23**).

So how do we draw near enough to experience His peace? Jesus said, “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” (**John 14:27**).

We come into the presence of the Lord through His Son (**John 14:6**). When we allow Jesus’ death and resurrection to purchase our forgiveness from God, we are counted as righteous (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). Our sins are forgiven because Jesus already paid the price for them. Only then can we have peace with God (**Romans 4:5; 5:1; 1 John 4:10**).

The initial peace that comes from having our consciences wiped clean grows as we get to know God better (**Hebrews 10:22**). First Peter 1:2 says, “May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord” (NLT). When we grow in understanding of the depths and riches of God’s love toward us, (**Ephesians 3:18–19; Romans 8:38–39**), our minds and spirits begin to rest in His power and wisdom. We begin to understand that He really will make all things work together for our good (**Romans 8:28**). We learn that His purposes will be accomplished (**Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 45:9; 46:9–11**).

Bad Attitudes Destroy

Certain attitudes can destroy the peace of God. When we equate trust with the assumption that God will give us whatever we want, we set ourselves up for disappointment. The Bible is filled with examples of the opposite happening to God's people (**2 Corinthians 12:7–9; Hebrews 11:13; Psalm 10:1**). Trust means we have set our hearts to believe God, whatever may happen. When we insist on being in control, we sabotage God's desire to let us live in peace. When we choose worry rather than faith, we cannot live in peace. Jesus warned us often about fear and worry (**Matthew 6:34; Luke 12:29; Philippians 4:6**). Worry is the enemy of peace. God invites us to cast our cares upon Him and then let go of them (**1 Peter 5:7**).

Living in peace can be compared to the petals of a flower unfolding in the morning sunlight. The petals of peace in our lives unfold as we learn more about God. We discover that His character is always faithful. We experience His continual goodness. We read more of His promises (**Psalm 100:5; 115:11; Isaiah 26:4**). We learn to bask in His overwhelming love for us (**Romans 8:38–39**). We refuse to allow ever-changing circumstances to determine our level of contentment, relying instead upon the character of God that never changes (**James 1:17; Malachi 3:6**).

When we develop a lifestyle of making the Lord our refuge, we begin to live in the peace of God (**Psalm 46:1; 62:8**). **Psalm 91:1** holds the secret to living in the peace of God: *“He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”*

That secret place in our hearts is where we go to meet with God. When we choose to live there and hide away under His shadow, staying in constant communion with Him, we can remain peaceful, even when circumstances may not be. When we learn to cry out to Him in times of trouble, we find that His peace really does pass all human understanding (**Philippians 4:7**).

The Bible reveals to us that the foundation of all true peace is a proper relationship with our God and Creator. Ultimate peace is the individual being reconciled to God. (Bibletruth.org) This can only happen through Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son. (**John 3:16**)

You Can Decide to Be Peaceful

By Joyce Meyer Ministries

We can make the decision to stop allowing ourselves to get upset, aggravated and frustrated. Although we may think, “I can’t help it,” according to Jesus, we can help it. He offers us peace that can keep us from getting this way.

It’s important for us to realize that we have a responsibility to not let our hearts be troubled or afraid. We will never break loose from anything we’re struggling with until we take personal responsibility for where we are now.

Most people just want to blame someone or something else for their problems – a bad childhood, their lack of education, their nationality, their personality – and make excuses for the way they are. But we can’t let the things from our past, or present, become an excuse to stay there. Believe me...I know.

I grew up in a home full of turmoil. It was a very unstable, unpleasant atmosphere, filled with alcohol, anger and all kinds of abuse. However, I learned that I had to take responsibility for my actions if my life would ever be different than what I experienced throughout my childhood.

I remember when I realized that living with frustration; aggravation and worry really just did me no good at all. All I ever got from being this way was a headache, a backache, a grouchy attitude, and regret for saying things I never should have said.

As I began to take responsibility and say, “God will help me to do something about this if I really want Him to,” things began to change. It wasn’t easy and it didn’t happen overnight, but as I trusted God more and more to help me, and then made right choices to act like Christ instead of the way I felt like acting when I was upset or didn’t get my way, I changed. I learned to live with the peace Jesus gives.

We can have anything God says we can have. He is no respecter of persons. The promises of God are for “whosoever will” (see Acts 10:34-35). We’re all “whosoever,” but not all of us are willing to do what we need to do to inherit the promises of God. We may be willing to hear the truth, but are we willing to **do** what it says?

I want to challenge you to decide right now to be determined and persistent in seeking God and being obedient to what He's telling you to do. Our enemy, the devil, is persistent and will do whatever he can to wear us out and keep us from God's will. But we need to have the same tenacity in Christ to never give up – by God's grace – and make him sorry he ever bothered us.

Remember, as a born-again Christian, you are full of the Spirit of the living God, who makes us more than conquerors. We should plan ahead to stay peaceful during trials. Everything is not going to go our way all the time, and when it doesn't, we can be prepared to stay in peace in the midst of it all.

Let your confession be: “With God's help, I don't have to be aggravated or frustrated. I can stay calm and hold my peace.” The ability to display stability and remain calm in troubled times can be one of our greatest testimonies to a troubled world.

Using The Peace of God As A Referee

Let's take another look at **Colossians 3:15** “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Here is the key to a successful Christian Life. Fail in this exercise and you will never attain peace and will stay frustrated, angry and depressed all the days of your life.

However, when you apply the scripture, it really works and you can see its affect immediately. Here's what you do:

1. Treat the word, “Rule” as a “Referee.”
2. Listen for the voice of reason.
3. Obey what the Holy Spirit tells you to do.
4. Stand in faith and hold on to your initial decision.
5. Do not waver in action or thoughts.
6. Trust in the Lord that He knows best.
7. Reject every thought that tries to change your course of action.

It's All About The Process

When you have peace, it is a gift from God's Holy Spirit. We can walk in it and allow it to rule. This means a total surrender to God's will, knowing that He knows best. Once you are there, your will does not count. It is not a concern anymore. Your heart and mind is focused to doing God's will and you are dedicated to searching it out and doing it. This is what it means to let the "Peace of God" rule.

Now that you are surrendered to doing the will of God, you have to seriously listen for His voice. He will tell you if you are in or out of His will. He uses His Peace to communicate with you. If you have peace in a situation, you are in His will. This is assuming you have talked it over with God and still feel what you are about to do is right. If you start losing His peace, getting confused or feeling akeptical, back away from it because it is leading you out of God's will. It's like the Holy Spirit is blowing a whistle, like a feeree, and yelling, "Off Sides!" He uses the absence of peace to tell you that you are moving away from the will of God.

So the process is to surrender to God's will, listen for His voice, Obey what He says, allow His peace to referee, and never move out of its influence.

Hinderences To Maintaining God's Peace

There are several hinderences to staying in the Peace of God. Here's a list to be aware of:

1. **Satanic Attacks**...The devil will shoot fireiry darts at us in the form of thoughts, trying to get us to make decision that dishonor God or lead us away from His will. (**I Peter 5:8-9**) We are to resist him stradfastly in the faith.
2. **Fleshly Desires**...Our own selfish desires are strong and will pull at our souls to do things that are self-gratifying. The way to overcome these desires is to submit and resubmit yourselves unto God untill the desires subside.
3. **Disobedience**...Sometimes we catch an attitude and rebell. This happens mostly when what the Holy Spirit says is not to our liking.

The victory is in **Romans 8:28**, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” We must hold on to this scripture. It says that God is working everything together for our good, even if we do not see it in front of us.

4. **Public Opinion...** Lots of folks give way to public opinion. They do not want to be seen as strange or as one who thinks outside of the norm. It begins with peer pressure and grows into politically correct and then settles on what others say or think. We need to decide on God’s will and stick to it no matter what.
5. **Fear & Worry...** Once we fall into worry or fear, we lose the peace of God. Fear can consume us so we cannot stand in faith. Worry steals our joy and zaps our strength so we cannot remain calm. We must labor to enter into His rest by rejecting these feelings at all cost.

Walking in the peace of God takes time. We have to learn how because it is not automatic. It’s like learning to play the piano. There are the basics, then lots of practice and mistakes, but finally comes the joy of getting it right and doing it. The good thing about it is God wants us to have and enjoy His peace. No one can take it away from us. We can give it up, the devil can steal it if we are not careful, but it is ours do with or without.

Conclusion

Don’t think that anyone can experience the Peace of God. It is not even offered to most people. You must be, “Born Again” to experience the Peace of God. If you doubt my claim, read **John 3:1-3**.

It says, “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

When you are, “Born Again” you become a child of God. Jesus taught Nicodemus this truth in verses 5-6, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say

unto thee, except a man be born of water, (Physical Birth), and of the Spirit, (Spiritual Birth), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

So we need to be born of the Spirit in order to see the kingdom of God. Guess what? *“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and **peace**, and joy in the Holy Ghost”* **Romans 14:17**

It’s the “Born Again” folks that are given the Spirit who in turn brings “Peace” along with other gifts and fruit into their lives. Thus they gain access to the Peace of God which rules or referee’s their everyday.

See my other eBook, “**How To Be Born Again**” if you need more explanation.

**God Bless You As You Search Out His Will
And Learn To Walk In His peace**