



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

[Philippians 4:7](#)

PEACE

There is a peace inside the believer. It is not created or destroyed by outside circumstances. It is not a peace we make if we just order, will or work a plan. It is a peace in what has already happened. The arrival of Christ in our hearts brings peace. Sometimes this peace does not make sense in light of the circumstances around us. We know that the outside no longer rules when the Prince of Peace has made our hearts his throne.

The peace icon shows a lone snowflake. It is undisturbed by the rush of plows. It is not piled in dirty sludge. It is not seen as part of a storm that may leave us snowbound or without power. In unique stillness, it is emblematic of peace, regardless of what surrounds it.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

“So long as we are occupied with any other object than God himself, there will be neither rest for the heart nor peace for the mind.” A.W. Pink

A Place of Peace | eternal

The triune God is a God of peace. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are eternally at peace with each other. God created the heavens, earth and mankind. This creation was in harmony - secure and in right relationship - reflecting the triune God. God created the perfect home for mankind. This was a place where mankind could thrive, prosper and experience him. It was a web of peace among God, mankind and nature.

A Place of Chaos | internal

The place of peace did not last. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by following after Satan, God's enemy. Satan wanted his own kingdom, his own worshipers and more power. When Adam and Eve sided with Satan, peace was shattered. Peace was broken among the Earth, among mankind, and between God and his creation. We now live in a world in which the Earth lashes out, mankind seeks to harm one another, and we run away from God for our own desires. Yet there was a promise. God would send one who would restore the place of peace ([Genesis 3:15](#)). This one was Jesus. He came to Earth— he lived, died, and rose from the dead. Doing so he took the punishment for our rebellion and brought us back into peace with himself. When we believe in Christ, our hearts can be at rest in him, because we are no longer at war with him ([Romans 5:1](#)).

Peace Restored | external

While Christ has come and brought peace to those who believe in him, chaos still rages around us. The Kingdom of God is here but not fully realized. There will come a day when Christ will return and an ultimate peace will be restored. Until that day, we are called to be Christ's ambassadors and to bring the

message of reconciliation to those around us ([2 Corinthians 5:17-18](#)). We push back against the chaos and darkness, with strength from the Holy Spirit. We push back against the struggle of the earth—we care and provide for those who struggle to survive. We push back against broken relationships—we protect and advocate for those who are abused by man. We push back against man’s rebellion toward God—we bring and reflect the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are hiding from him.

RESPONSE

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. [Isaiah 26:3](#)

Reflection Questions

Meditate on the place of peace that God created for mankind to experience him (Genesis 1-2). What was it like? What does scripture say the new ultimate peace will be like?

Satan destroyed the place of peace because he wanted his own kingdom, worshipers, and power. Where do you seek to follow after your own plans? What ways do you seek to have peace in your life apart from God?

When Adam and Eve sinned, chaos followed. This chaos brought about broken relationships among mankind. What broken relationships in your life do you need to evaluate? Do you need to repent of a wrongdoing? Do you need to forgive a wrongdoing? Only when repentance and forgiveness occur, can the relationships be restored.

How can you practically push back against the chaos and darkness in this world?

Family Table Talk

What distracts you from having peace and quiet in your life? How can you block out these distractions?

The world we live in now is fast-paced and there is always something to be doing. Technology such as tablets and smartphones play a large role in our lives. As does social media—Twitter, Facebook, Vine, and Instagram. What does it look like for everyone in the family to have a daily quiet time? To “unplug” from media and “plug” into Jesus?

Advent Action

Consider how you as a family can help those who struggle to provide for themselves and those who have been deeply abused by man. How can you help the peace of God intersect their lives?

Memory Verse

[Philippians 4:7](#)

MORE RESOURCES

“Self-seeking is the gate by which a soul departs from peace; and total abandonment to the will of God, that by which it returns.” Madame Guyon

Articles & Blogs

[Christianity, A Peace-Fueled Battle](#) - Dane Ortlund blog from The Gospel Coalition

[Facing Anxiety Face-to-Face With Christ](#) - Bob Kellemen article from Biblical Counseling Coalition

Sermons

[A Savior is Born! Glory To God, Peace To Man](#) - Sermon by John Piper (with transcript)

[The Peacemaker](#) - Sermon by Charles Spurgeon (transcript only)

Hymns

[Be Still My Soul](#) - Wayfaring Stranger (Terra Nova Church)

[Silent Night](#) - Citizens & Saints (Mars Hill Church)

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. [Micah 5:4-5](#)
