



Jesus wants His children to have God’s joy in every situation, not just so that they will be happy people, but so that they will be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul’s teaches us joy in the midst of trials; “**But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your**

faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.” (Philippians 2:17,18) In other words, we are to be seeking first God’s kingdom, not our own happiness. If a non-Christian sees you as a believer weighed down with anxiety and care, he isn’t going to be asking how he can have what you have! Anxiety and joy are mutually exclusive. So for the sake of our testimony of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that we learn to experience the peace of God, especially in the face of trials. This means that when it comes to the matter of dealing with our anxiety, we must, at the outset, confront our motives for wanting to have peace. **If our reason for wanting to be free from anxiety is so that we can live a peaceful, pleasant life, our focus is self-centered and therefore wrong.** There are many people who come to Christ because they are anxious and they want the peace He offers. **But if they do not confront the fact that they are living to please themselves rather than God, they will simply settle into a self-centered life.** Jesus said, “**Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s shall save it”** (Mark 8:35). The peace Christ offers is the by-product of enthroning Christ as Lord and living for His Kingdom.

“PEACE- FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”

The believer who places his or her full confidence in a loving God and is thankful in every circumstance will possess a supernatural peace. An inner calm will dominate the heart. The faithful believer will know peace—his heart and mind are “**guarded**” by it—despite the tempest raging without. No one, especially those

outside of Christ, will be able to fathom that peace. To most, it will remain a mystery how someone can be so serene in the midst of turmoil. This supernatural peace takes time and experience as we walk with our Lord. Peace is a Fruit of the Spirit and we must cultivate this fruit into our spiritual lives. We will experience trails in this life time, but understand He is using these trials as a teaching tool to draw us nearer to Him. His ultimate goal for us is to comprehend His love for us and trust Him. The Fruit of Peace He is producing in our lives is not for our own sake but also for the sake of others.



“FORMULA FOR WALKING IN PEACE”



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or

praiseworthy- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from Me, or seen in Me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:6-9

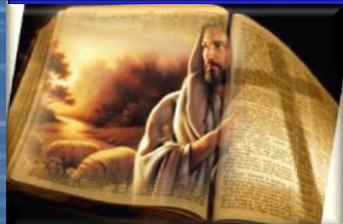
“THERE IS NO TRUE PEACE APART FROM JESUS”



Peace of mind is something that we all want. We all want to be able to rest, to not have to worry, to feel free to enjoy life, family, friends, work, church, hobbies, entertainment, etc. We want to be able to enjoy ourselves and not be burdened down with worries that rob us of

vigor, life, and purpose. Sometimes when we can't find peace of mind, we get depressed. We often get angry and lash out at God or someone else near to you. The peace that comes from being in a right relationship with God is not the peace of this world. The world’s peace depends on having favorable circumstances: if things are going well, then we feel peaceful; when things go awry, the peace quickly dissipates. Jesus made the distinction between His peace and the world’s vacillating peace: **“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”** (John 14:27) He spoke those comforting words on the most difficult night He faced on this earth, the night before His crucifixion. Seven times in the New Testament our God is called either the God or Lord of Peace. That peace can be the constant experience of every Christian, even in the midst of trials. In our text, Paul the prisoner tells us how: There are three key words in these verses that reveal the theme: **“The peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 4:7). **Anxious; prayer; and, peace. Being anxious is the problem we are told to put off; prayer is the procedure we are told to practice; peace is the product we are promised by God.** In a time of trial, you draw near to the God of peace, you focus on His grace to you in Christ Jesus, you pour out your heart to Him, and the result is, His peace stands guard over your heart and mind.

"PEACE FROM KNOWING HIS WORD (JESUS)"



The peace of Jesus is not birthed from what we see, what we feel nor by what we hear in this world. The peace of God that surpasses all understanding is originated by knowing the Word of God and Jesus is the Word. **"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the**

Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God." So, in others words; **"For we walk by faith, not by sight."** (2 Corinthians 5:7)

"JESUS CHRIST IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE"

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and every follower of His has an inheritance of living a peaceful life in spite of the turmoil.

"Inner Peace Is The Hallmark Of A Maturing Christian"



"THE 5 P'S TO FINDING PEACE"

1) **PURSUE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:**

"There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isaiah 48:22). Peace will allude those who don't have a relationship with God. The Bible affirms that **"all have sinned"** (Romans 3:23) and that **"salvation is**

found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Without knowing Jesus Christ, there will always be the fear of death and judgment within the hearts of men and women. Yet knowing the Lord enables believers to have peace even within the worst of storms.

2) **PUT AWAY ANXIOUS THOUGHTS:** **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 4:6)

Believers can struggle with doubt, fear, and unbelief leading to anxious thoughts. However we are clearly taught that we aren't to be worried about anything, meaning nothing at all—no matter the challenge! **By praying to God and giving thanks to Him for all He's done in our lives will allow the peace of God to drench our spirits.** This peace will cause you and others to marvel because of your calmness and confidence even in the midst of painful situations.

3) **PLACE YOUR TRUST IN GOD:** **"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."** (Psalm 20:7).

Sometimes our peace crumbles because we've placed our trust in people, jobs, the justice system, economy, or anything except completely in God. Watching your world crumble around you brings to light where you've really placed your peace. God doesn't need us to be robots that mindlessly follow after Him. He longs for His people to boldly **trust in His loving hands** over their lives even when it seems like all is lost. **Begin to trust God on the smaller issues so that you can build a strong trust relationship with Him that will restore your peace.**

4) **PRIORITIZE YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK:** **"But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."** (Matthew 6:33-34). Peace can be difficult to find when believers become distracted with the cares and worries of this world.

Many times people fall away from their spiritual walk—not in a giant leap away from righteousness—but rather in a series of small compromises of faith that slowly drain peace from your life. Making your spiritual growth a priority is essential to having a life of peace to sustain you through hard times. This may mean that you need to step back and reassess your spiritual walk: How's your prayer life? What are you studying in the scriptures? Do you fellowship regularly with other believers?



5) **PUSH PAST YOUR PRESENT SITUATION:** **"For we live by faith, not by sight."** (2 Corinthians 5:7) It's easy to get stuck in our present situation and miss the glory that God wants to reveal in us. Our peace evaporates just like it did for Peter when he stepped out on the water to walk towards Jesus. (Matthew 14:29-31) **Peace isn't the absence of a stormy**

situation—it's the ability to remain calm and faithful in spite of the uncertainty. We must practice on a daily basis to look past our present circumstances to see the Lord's hand at work. **Faith** is about hoping for what you don't yet see in this world. As you grow in your faith, the peace of God will infiltrate your heart and mind. **"Peace be still..."** The disciples were afraid



for their lives and woke Jesus in a frenzy because of the fierceness of the storm. He said three simple words, **"Peace be still"** and the entire weather system complied. (Mark 4:39-41). Can you imagine the amazement of these tough and experienced fishermen? **The Lord desires that His people stepped back from the anxieties and perplexities of this world to see His power displayed in magnificent ways. May we as followers of Jesus Christ demonstrate the peace of God every day so that others may know Him.**