

The Peace of God



What is God's Peace?

God's Peace, in the new testament, is the Greek word "**Eirene**" a verb, from the word "**eiro**" = to join or bind together that which had been separated. It literally pictures the weaving back together of something separated or divided, and making them one. Because God binds us back together with Him, we get to experience all that His peace has to offer; safety, inner rest, clarity of mind, harmony with His plan, and freedom from fear.

This corresponds with the Hebrew word "**Shalom**" = the state of being made complete and sound. Shalom is not just freedom from trouble, but is everything that makes for a person's highest good in God, implying health, well-being, ease of mind, strength and prosperity. As a result of placing our faith and trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God, and get ALL of His benefits!

Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:13-18, Philippians 4:7

- *Philippians 4 describes His peace & reconciliation as so deep, and so rich, that it "surpasses all understanding" - Tell us about a time that you truly encountered/ experienced the peace of God that surpassed your understanding, or, as we say, blew your mind!*

The Gift of Peace

God's peace is one of His covenant gifts, providing wholeness, reconciliation and harmony - not with a "thing" but with a PERSON, Jesus Christ.

We cannot give what we don't have. God has given us peace, because He OWNS peace, and He IS our peace. As with any gift He gives, our part is to humbly and confidently receive it, open it, and then OWN it ourselves! We are His sons & daughters, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ our Lord, made worthy through His blood to receive ALL He has purchased for us. Neither the devil, nor the world gave us this peace, so neither of them can take it away. Hold on to, and protect this great gift!

Scriptures: Psalm 29:10-11, John 14:27, John 10:10

- *Call out some of the lies the enemy uses to try to rob God's people of their gift of peace. How have you learned to silence his lies? How will you protect the peace given to you?*

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Governed by His Peace

On this earth, we will walk through the valley of the shadow of death, yet, we will fear NO evil. Through every difficulty, challenge, sadness and sorrow, we are comforted and strengthened as we choose to live by Jesus' overcoming victory.

God's full desire is to govern every nation with His peace. This IS possible to those that will truly fear His Name and honor His commands. As His eyes scan the earth, will he find a nation He can rightfully govern?

He also wants to **personally** govern every individual that calls upon His Name. His peace will come in, to anyone that will LET Him in! He wants His peace to be the governing umpire of our lives, leading us to safety, and leading all men to reconciliation with Him.

Scriptures: Acts 10:34-38, John 16:33, Colossians 3:15

- *What would a nation look like governed by the peace of God? What about a city, a church, a family, or an individual? What does YOUR life look like governed by God's peace?*

Staying in the Peace

With all the gifts our Wonderful Father gives us, we need to make up our minds and commit to keep ourselves learning about, growing in, and abiding by & in them. Thankfully, His Word gives us *several* instructions on how to do this! Listed below are some instructions on keeping ourselves in the peace of God. Can you find more?

Scriptures:

- Keeping our mind stayed on Him. Isaiah 26:3
- Being anxious for nothing, while staying in prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6-7
- Living in the Spirit. Galatians 5:22, Romans 8:6
- Loving and heeding His commandments. Psalm 119:165, Isaiah 48:18
- Pursuing peace. Hebrews 12:14
- *Which of these scriptures are speaking to you right now? How will you continue to keep yourself in the peace of God?*
