

Topical and Exhaustive survey of all New Testament passages on God's Peace (as found in the New King James Version Bible)

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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PEACE OF GOD

- The peace of God has God as its origin. It's the peace "of God." (Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15) The peace of God emanates from God Himself.
- Jesus wants to give you His peace (John 14:27)
- Jesus wants to leave His peace with you (John 14:27)
- God is the author of peace! "For God is not *the author* of confusion but **of peace**, as in all the churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33)
- The "God of hope" wants to "fill you with all joy and peace in believing" (Romans 15:13)
- Jesus is illustrated as the "king of peace" Melchizedek (an Old Testament picture of Jesus Christ) was "made like the Son of God," Jesus Christ, and was the "king of Salem, meaning "king of peace" " (Hebrews 7:2-3)

WHAT IS THE PEACE OF GOD - 15 Keys (Tips)

- #1 THE PEACE OF GOD IS WHAT JESUS WANTS TO GIVE YOU
 - Jesus wants to give you His peace
 - John 14:27 "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."
- #2 THE PEACE OF GOD IS WHAT JESUS WANTS TO LEAVE WITH YOU
 - Jesus wants to leave His peace with you
 - John 14:27 "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."
- #3 THE PEACE OF GOD HAS GOD AS ITS ORIGIN
 - The peace of God has God as its origin. You can't get it anywhere else but from God!
 - o It's the peace "of God" it emanates from God Himself.
 - Philippians 4:7 "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
 - Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."
- #4 THE PEACE OF GOD BELONGS TO JESUS
 - In John 14:27 Jesus said, "My peace"

And remember that Jesus wants to give His peace to you - "My peace I give to you"
 (John 14:27)

• #5 - THE PEACE OF GOD IS BEYOND YOUR INTELLECT OR COMPREHENSION

- Philippians 4:7 "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- Having God's peace is not a mental mantra we need to conjure ourselves up into
- It's not having "peace of mind" as is popularly discussed in the world where we work ourselves up into

#6 - THE PEACE OF GOD IS FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The peace of God in a Christian's life is a fruitful sign for us to see if we are spiritually growing and maturing
- Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness"

#7 - THE PEACE OF GOD IS THE ANTIDOTE FOR YOUR ANXIETY

- It's the exact answer for you when you are anxious.
- o In fact, the Peace of God is God's precise remedy for anxiety and worry
- Philippians 4:6-7 6Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

#8 - THE PEACE OF GOD IS ACCESSIBLE ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

- The peace of God is found only in Jesus Christ
- Philippians 4:7 "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
- Acts 10:36 "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all"
- Romans 5:1 "therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

#9 - THE PEACE OF GOD IS JESUS HIMSELF.

- Ephesians 2:14 "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation"
- Jesus Himself is our peace

- Jesus was prophesied in Isaiah 9:6 to be the prince of peace
 - Isaiah 9:6-7a "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Of the increase of His government and **peace** There will be no end,"
- In Hebrews the writer makes the comparison between Melchizedek and Jesus, showing that Melchizedek was, "king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," " (Hebrews 7:2)
- This makes sense that the peace of God is Jesus Himself, because GOD IS THE GOD OF PEACE. as found in:
 - Romans 15:33 "Now **the God of peace** be with you all. Amen."
 - Romans 16:20 "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly."
 - 2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and **the God of love and peace** will be with you."
 - Philippians 4:9 "The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and **the God of peace** will be with you."
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "Now may **the God of peace** Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - Hebrews 13:20 "Now may **the God of peace** who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant"
 - He's even called "the Lord of peace" in 2 Thessalonians 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all."
- #10 THE PEACE OF GOD IS WHAT YOU ARE TO SEEK AND PURSUE.
 - 1 Peter 3:11 "Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it." (quoted from Psalm 34:14)
- #11 THE PEACE OF GOD IS WHAT YOU ARE TO PURSUE WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS
 - 2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."
- #12 THE PEACE OF GOD IS WHAT YOU ARE TO PURSUE WITH ALL PEOPLE.
 - Hebrews 12:14 "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:"

- #13 THE PEACE OF GOD IS HOW YOU CAN DETECT GOD'S WILL
 - Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you
 were called in one body; and be thankful."
 - James 3:17 "17But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
 18Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."
 - o (it's how we are to lead our lives) Romans 8:6 6For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
- #14 THE PEACE OF GOD IS WHAT GETS CONVEYED AS YOU PREACH THE GOSPEL
 - The Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ is called "the gospel of peace" in many places
 - And many people come to salvation because their life lacks GOD'S PEACE and God uses the absence of His Peace to draw people in!
 - And to keep drawing His children back to Him!
 - You see without the peace of God every human does not truly have peace in their hearts and lives.
 - The Gospel is called "The Gospel of peace" (Romans 10:15; see Isaiah 52:7; Nahum
 1:15)
 - Romans 10:15 "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who **preach the gospel of peace**, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"
 - Ephesians 6:15 "and having shod your feet with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**"
 - As we share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ we know that people need to 1st Make PEACE WITH GOD through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; this is the Gospel, or the Gospel of peace
 - Acts 10:36 "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, **preaching** peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—"
 - Romans 5:1 1Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 - To 2nd have access to the PEACE OF GOD
- #15 THE PEACE OF GOD IS HOW YOU ARE TO BE FOUND BY JESUS IN THESE LAST DAYS
 - And last but not least as Peter is teaching us about these Last Days that we now live in...
 - o 2 Peter 3:14 "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to **be**

found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;"

WHAT THE PEACE OF GOD IS NOT

- #1 THE PEACE OF GOD IS NOT A STATE OF MIND. Pursuing God's Peace is not to pursue a state of mind. To pursue peace is to pursue God Himself.
 - It's not just a "peace of mind"
 - This is important, because for those who take the approach that God's Peace is a state of mind that we need to work ourselves up into, you can have a peaceful state of mind, but will usually quickly lose that state of mind. This is because - again, Pursuing God's Peace is not to pursue a state of mind, but to pursue a Person, and that's Jesus Christ Himself.
 - The state of mind that Christians need to be in, and to remind themselves to get back to
 is to think on the things that God gives them that bring peace itself, and to think on
 God Himself, who is our peace. (Philippians 4)
 - Jesus said in John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
 - o Once more, this affirms that God's Peace is found in a Person, Jesus Himself.
- #2 THE PEACE OF GOD IS NOT AN INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING
 - It's not an intellectual understanding of God and His ways (Philippians 4:7)
- #3 THE PEACE OF GOD IS NOT A THING
 - What I mean by this, is that God's peace is not a commodity, nor is it something that you can quantify. You can't stock up on God's peace. You can't hoard God's peace. You can't sell God's peace and you can't buy God's peace. God's peace is not like the gas in a car, where when the gas runs low you have to fill it up.
- #4 THE PEACE OF GOD IS NOT LIKE PEACE THAT THE WORLD GIVES
 - John 14:27 "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 type of "peace" that the world gives is usually dependent upon worldly circumstances.
 - The world gives an Absence of War type of Peace When a war, or a fight, is over and then there's a peace agreement or a cease fire.
 - To prove that this is a false peace, when there's another war or another fight that kind of peace immediately ends.
 - The world gives a Financial Peace When you work and get your paycheck some people say they're at peace now, because they got paid. This is not the kind of peace that Jesus gives.

WHAT THE PEACE OF GOD DOES

- The peace of God comforts your heart when you're troubled or afraid (John 14:27)
- The peace of God guards your heart & mind through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7)
 - There's a protective quality to God's peace.
 - Kept in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3)
- The peace of God guides your heart in decision making in life (Colossians 3:15)
- The peace of God can help cure you from anxiety and worry (Philippians 4:6-9; also see Luke 10:38-42)
- The peace of God helps Christians to "abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13)
- When God is training a Christian, "afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11)

WHAT THE PEACE OF GOD CANNOT DO

- The peace of God cannot rule in your heart unless you allow it to
- Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE <u>PEACE OF GOD</u> NON-CHRISTIANS MUST FIRST MAKE <u>PEACE</u> <u>WITH GOD</u>

- Because of not accepting Jesus Christ as Savior for their sins, a non-Christian can't have God's peace, but is storing up God's wrath for "the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God" (Romans 2:5)
- The ability to make peace with God is only found in Jesus Christ, your source of peace, and through Jesus we "have access by one Spirit to the Father" (John 16:33; Ephesians 2:14, 18)
- You can have peace with God, through the sacrificial death and blood of Jesus at the cross and His Resurrection
- Colossians 1:20 "and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."
- Romans 5:1 "having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"
- Peter preached "peace through Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:36)
- Jesus calms the storms (even of your life) and says, "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39)
- When Jesus saves you and heals you, He says, "Go in peace" (Mark 5:34; Luke 7:50; 8:48)
- Jesus gives His disciples peace (John 14:27 was spoken to Jesus' disciples, however not to Judas Iscariot; John 13:30; 14:22)

THE PEACE OF GOD HELPS YOU TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

• Note: God has already expressly told us His will within His Word, by commanding Christians to pursue peace (see the multitudes of passages within this paper)

- The peace of God helps Christians to know God's will (Colossians 3:15)
 - "let the peace of God rule in your hearts" the Greek word for "rule" only occurs in Colossians 3:15 and means "to act as umpire," "to decide," "determine," "to direct," "control," "rule" or "to govern." In application, after a Christian applies Colossians 3:1-14, and then needs to make decisions in life, look for the peace of God which the Holy Spirit, Who indwells Christians, will use to "direct" ("rule") the Christian into.
- As God's wisdom is peaceable, His will for your life will contain peace (James 3:17)
- The peace of God helps Christians to be "led by the Spirit" so that Christians can "Walk in the Spirit" that they "shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16-18, 22). Logically, the context also teaches us that by contrast, the peace of God is antithetical to "adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;" (Galatians 5:19b-21a)

CHRISTIANS ARE TO CONSTANTLY PURSUE PEACE

- Christians are to seek peace (1 Peter 3:11; Psalm 34:14)
- Christians are to be at peace among ourselves (1 Thessalonians 5:13)
- Christians are commanded to "flee also youthful lusts" and to "pursue peace" (as well as righteousness, faith and love) "with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22)
- Christians are to pursue peace with all people (2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 3:11;
 Psalm 34:14)
- Christians are to do everything within their power to live peaceably with everyone (Romans 12:18)
- Jesus commands us to have peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
- God wants Christians to live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with us (2 Corinthians 13:11)
- Christians are to pursue the things which make for peace (Romans 14:19)
- To be Spiritually-minded, leads to life and peace (Romans 8:6); whereas the contrast of this is to be "carnally minded" which leads to "death"
- As Christians, "God has called us to peace" (1 Corinthians 7:15)
- Christians are to be diligent to be found by God in peace (2 Peter 3:14)
- Christians are to be "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3)
- Christians are "to be peaceable" (Titus 3:2)

HOW CAN CHRISTIANS REMAIN IN A PLACE OF HAVING GOD'S PEACE or GET BACK TO HAVING GOD'S PEACE?

How to handle anxiety in a godly manner OR How to kill anxiety and pursue peace

- According to God's procedure laid out in Philippians 4:
 - o rejoice in the Lord (4:4)
 - show gentleness to all, knowing "the Lord is at hand" (4:5)
 - take your worries to God by praying and seeking God's provision with a thankful heart
 (4:6)
 - o God will give you His peace to "guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (4:7)
 - "Finally" (after doing the above):
 - Get your mind to meditate on ("consider," "think"; not Eastern meditation) whatever things are: true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, any virtue, anything praiseworthy (4:8)
 - <u>Do these actions</u>: what you've learned, received, heard, saw (by implication, from Christ-followers) (4:9)
 - "and the God of peace will be with you" (4:9)
- When you find yourself anxious and worried, go back to Philippians 4:4-9 (see above)
- Also see section "CHRISTIANS ARE TO CONSTANTLY PURSUE PEACE"

PEACE SEEMED TO SURROUND JESUS

- At the birth of Jesus, angels praised God & proclaimed peace on Earth (Luke 2:14)
- At the Triumphal Entry of Jesus (AKA Palm Sunday), the disciples of Jesus shouted out, "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38)
- Jesus wept over Jerusalem, because the religious rulers didn't recognize the appointed time of their Messiah's visitation and missed the things that were made for their peace (Luke 19:41-44; Daniel 9:24-25)

NOTEWORTHY THOUGHTS ON THE PEACE OF GOD

- Peace, similar to God's love, grace and mercy are intangible; however, we do know that God's peace exists. God's peace is intangible, in that we cannot draw a picture of peace.
- A way that born again Christians can make God's peace palpable (able to be touched or felt), is by us receiving, embracing, embodying and exemplifying God's peace around others.
- God's Word brings us peace! Psalm 119:165 says "Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble."

OTHER PASSAGES ON PEACE

- God's messengers are to guide your feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:79)
- "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9)
- When Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples after His Resurrection, He said, "Peace to you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 21, 26)
- Jesus preached peace (Ephesians 2:17)
- The Jews had a Peace Offering (Leviticus 3)

- This wasn't to make peace with God; that was the Sin Offering. The Peace Offering was about fellowshipping with the peace of God, with Him. It symbolized fellowship with God.
- Paul begins each of his letters with a greeting of "grace and peace" (Romans 1:7; 1
 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4;
 Philemon 1:3)
- Peter begins each of his letters with "grace and peace" (1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:2)
- John greets his readers in 2 John and Revelation with "peace" (2 John 1:3; Revelation 1:4)
- Jude greets his readers with "mercy, peace, and love" (Jude 1:2)
- God is called the "God of peace" (Romans 15:33; 16:20; 1 Corinthians 14:33; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20) and even the "Lord of peace" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).
- God is also called the "God of love and peace" (2 Corinthians 13:11)
- God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33)
- The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace (James 3:18)
- Jesus' death was to bring peace between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:15)
- Christians are commanded to "be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14)
- Paul wrote, "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men." (Romans 14:17-18)
- The peace of God is what we can have when we're troubled or afraid (John 14:27)