

Let the Peace of God Rule

We think we know what peace is. A state of calm. The absence of conflict. No arguments, no wars, no tension in the room. Freedom from the things that stir us up. If something is disturbing the peace, we remove it — or remove ourselves from it — and peace returns.

That is what the world means by peace. And there is some truth in it. But it is not the whole picture. And if it is the only picture we have, we will completely misunderstand what Jesus said — and miss what the peace of God actually is.



THE SWORD

The prophets declared it centuries before He arrived. Peace on earth. The Prince of Peace is coming. Good will toward men.

And then He got here and said something that stopped everyone cold.

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. — Matthew 10:34

Luke records it even more sharply — division, not peace. Father against son, mother against daughter, households split down the middle.

How does the Prince of Peace say that? How does the fruit of the Spirit include peace while the One who gives it says He came with a sword? It sounds like a contradiction. It sounds like the opposite of everything we were told to expect.

But read what He says next.

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. — Matthew 10:37–39 NIV

He is not saying He came to wreck families for the sake of wrecking them. He is not telling us to hate the people we love or to treat division as a spiritual goal. What He is saying is this: I am about to change everything. And the flesh — which has been sitting on the throne of your life since the fall, ruling by default — is not going to step down without a fight.

The flesh was never meant to lead us. We were never meant to be ruled by sin. But without Christ, self sits on the throne. And it will not surrender that throne peacefully. It will not lay down its crown without resistance.

Jesus brought a sword. Not to start conflict — to end the wrong kind of peace. The kind of peace that is really just sin going unchallenged. The kind of peace that looks calm on the outside while everything underneath is still in rebellion against God.

Making peace with God means going to war with everything in you that opposed Him. And that war will not stay invisible. It will show up in relationships. It will show up in the way people respond to you. James says that friendship with the world is enmity with God. When you stop being friends with the world, the world notices.

I have read about people who gave their life to Jesus and whose families turned against them. People whose communities tried to destroy them simply because they chose to follow Christ. Jesus said this would happen. He was not surprised by it. Neither should we be.

The sword He brought was necessary. It cut through what needed to be cut so that something real could be built. And on the other side of that cutting — that is where the peace of God lives.



THE BEST THING I EVER LEARNED

My grandmother had a saying. I heard it in so many different situations growing up — when people were arguing, when a crisis hit, when the room was full of worry and everyone around her was getting worked up.

She would just say it, calm as anything:

“Let the peace of God rule.”

I heard it so many times it became part of how I understood the world. She said it when bad news came. She said it when situations felt out of control. There was even a moment when someone thought a family member was dying, and everyone around her was panicking — and she didn’t get worked up with them. She just said it again. Let the peace of God rule.

She practiced what she was saying. You could see it in her. Not a false calm, not pretending nothing was wrong — but a genuine settledness that came from somewhere deeper than the circumstances.

The last Christmas my grandmother had with us, she gathered us and said this:

I am thankful for Peace. That’s Jesus.

Jesus is our Peace.

Make sure you let the peace of God rule.

Let the peace of God rule.

Peace is Jesus. And you have to let.

Let the peace of God rule.

So if Satan can get you out of peace, he can get you out of trust.

Jesus rules when you let Him rule.

If you get out of peace, He's not ruling — because He is Peace.

Just remember that.

If it's Jesus, it's gonna be peace.

He's already won every battle.

You'll have trials and everything, but Jesus — He'll see you through.

Just let the peace of God rule.

That's the best thing I ever learned.

I have carried those words with me ever since. And the older I get, the more I understand what she was pointing at.



PEACE IS A PERSON

Peace is not a feeling. It is not a circumstance. It is not the absence of trouble or the presence of quiet. Peace is a Person.

Jesus is our peace. That is not a metaphor. That is not just a phrase to put on a wall. It means something. Ephesians 2 says He Himself is our peace. Not that He gives it like a gift He hands over and walks away from — but that He is it. When He is ruling in your heart, peace is present. When He is not ruling, peace is absent. It really is that simple.

My grandma understood this. She was not telling people to pretend problems didn't exist. She was not saying ignore the crisis, suppress the emotion, put on a plastic smile. She was saying: let the One who IS Peace actually rule. Let Him have the throne. Stop trying to manage it yourself and let Him be what He already is.

If you get out of peace, He's not ruling — because He is peace.

That is one of the clearest diagnostics I have ever heard for the condition of the soul. When peace is gone, something has taken the throne that does not belong there. Worry has taken it. Fear has taken it. Pride has taken it. The flesh has reasserted itself. And the

remedy is not to try harder — it is to let go. To choose, actively and deliberately, to let Him rule again.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be thankful. — Colossians 3:15 KJV

Notice the word. Let. It is not automatic. It is a decision. You have to let it. Which means you can also not let it. You can push it aside, override it, refuse it. The peace of God is available to every believer — but it only rules where it is allowed to rule.

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**ANXIETY, WORRY, AND THE PEACE THAT PASSES
UNDERSTANDING**

One of the primary ways the enemy tries to steal peace is through the mind. Anxiety. Worry. Stress. The relentless replay of worst-case scenarios. The feeling that everything is about to fall apart and you are the only thing standing between now and disaster. I know that feeling. I understand the weight of it. I am not going to tell you it is simple to shake, because it is not. But I want to say what my grandmother would say — let the peace of God rule.

Because here is what anxiety almost always is, underneath all of it: a situation that is outside of your control, and a part of you that cannot accept that it is outside of your control. The mind keeps reaching for the lever that does not exist, keeps trying to find a way to manage what cannot be managed. And the harder it reaches, the more anxious it becomes.

That is the moment to let go. Not to do nothing — sometimes there are real steps to take, real action required. But to release the outcome to God. To stop straining to hold on to what was never in your hands to begin with.

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. — Isaiah 26:3 NIV

Perfect peace. Not partial peace, not occasional peace — perfect peace. And the condition is a mind that is steadfast, fixed on God, trusting Him. Not a mind that has figured everything out. Not a mind that sees how it is all going to work. A mind that trusts the One who does.

This is also where gratitude comes in. Not thanking God for the chaos, but thanking Him in it. Thanking Him for who He is, regardless of what is happening around you. There is something about genuine gratitude — even in the middle of a hard season — that reorients the heart. It reminds you that you are not alone, that He has not forgotten you, that the same God who has carried you this far has not stopped being good.

We may not always be able to control what is happening around us. But we have a choice about what rules inside us.



CHOOSE PEACE. CHOOSE JESUS.

Let me be honest about something. This is easier to write than to live. There are moments when peace feels impossible. When the situation is too heavy, the news too hard, the fear too loud. I am not going to pretend otherwise.

But I have also learned — slowly, imperfectly, through more failures than I would like to admit — that trusting God in those moments is always better than not trusting Him. Every single time. The peace that comes from surrendering control to Him is not naive. It is not the peace of someone who does not understand the weight of the situation. It is the peace of someone who knows Who is carrying it.

This does not mean silence in the face of evil. It does not mean surrendering to things that are genuinely wrong because you want to appear calm. It means that even in the fight, even in the hard conversation, even in the battle — the peace of God can rule in your heart. Because He is with you in it.

He does not promise there will be no storms. He promises to be with us in them. And that is peace.

When the bad news comes — let the peace of God rule.

When the situation is out of your hands — let the peace of God rule.

When the anxiety rises and the worst-case scenarios start playing — let the peace of God rule.

When the room is full of people who are losing it and someone needs to be the steady one — let the peace of God rule.

Jesus rules when you let Him rule. He is peace. And He has already won every battle.