



The Power of Peace

Jimmy Evans

Focus Peace is the most precious commodity. Jesus offers it freely and promises an eternity of peace. It is vital for our physical and emotional health to live in the peace He gives.

Fun You receive an all-expense paid week-long vacation to the location of your choice. Where would you go?

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 21:25–28; Galatians 5:22; John 14:27–28; Philippians 4:6–7

1. Jesus rules and ministers by peace.

He is the Prince and High Priest of Peace. He never uses fear to guide us but offers peace freely through the Holy Spirit. Satan wants to take peace away from us or keep us from peace.

2. Peace is how God guides us and protects our minds and hearts against Satan's attacks of fear and anxiety.

Many of our decisions are between two good choices. We need God's peace to help make decisions. His incomprehensible peace will guard us, and Satan will not be able to penetrate it.

3. Peace is the platform of our witness and the purpose of our ministry and influence.

The world is looking for peace. Our ministry is to extend peace wherever we go. Without peace, we don't think about witnessing to others, because we're worried about other things. But when we exude peace, that becomes attractive to unbelievers.

4. The five essential foundations of peace include:

- Submission to the Lordship of Christ: A lack of peace indicates an absence of lordship in an area. We can tell how close we are to Jesus by how much peace we experience.
- Diligent, Faith-Filled Prayer: Without faith, prayer is just griping in the spirit. Prayer only works if you transfer the burden. Faith-filled prayer brings peace. When you pray with thanksgiving, peace will guard your mind and heart.
- A Godward Mindset: Our mindset is ours to set. No one else can set it for us. Wherever we set our minds will determine whether we have peace or anxiety.
- Daily Dependence upon the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is essential for our emotions to operate correctly. He gives us peace as a gift, but we must admit we need it.
- Praise and Worship: Praise is a garment we have to put on. If we can't praise through our feelings, we must praise by faith.

Group Dynamics Idea Begin planning to watch a fireworks display together to celebrate the Fourth of July. If you're near the Southlake Campus, the campus parking lot offers a fantastic view of the fireworks show at Southlake Town Square. Check your community calendar for other local options.

Discuss

1. According to John 14:27, what does Jesus offer? How does this differ from what the world offers?
2. Share a time you prayed for guidance from the Lord and felt His peace in the decision? How does this compare with times you've been anxious over a choice?
3. Have you been in the presence of someone who carried peace or been to a home or business that exuded peace? How did this affect you? Discuss how

you can extend peace in your home, workplace, and with your friends and extended family.

4. What does 1 Peter 5:7 tell us to give to God? Why?
5. In the story of David and Goliath, what perspective did David have about the giant? How did this differ from everyone else? What view can we have about the giants in our lives?
6. We're not able to produce peace on our own. Who must we depend on for peace? How often do we need guidance?
7. When the devil tries to put a spirit of heaviness on us, what does Psalm 149:5–6 tell us to do?
8. Pastor Jimmy taught that when we lack peace in an area of our life, we haven't submitted that area to the Lord. Take time to pray, and if the Lord reveals an area where you lack peace, submit it to Him.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- God's peace is easy to get and hard to lose, while the world's peace is hard to get and easy to lose.
- We weren't designed by God to live in an atmosphere of stress and anxiety. Our bodies have to live in peace to be healthy.
- Your environment will manifest your inner nature, whether it is of anxiety and stress or of peace and faith.
- Fear is expecting the devil to move. Faith is expecting God to move.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the peace that You give through Jesus and by Your Holy Spirit. As You show me areas of my life where I am operating in fear and worry, I choose to submit them to You. When I am distracted by anxious thoughts, guide me to focus on You and depend on You daily. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Serving together is a great way to grow closer as a group. Visit serve.gatewaypeople.com and discuss with your group ways you can serve together.