

Assurance

Part # 2:

How to be certain...of God's Peace

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The desire of every generation that has lived on this planet is to experience a certain, **lasting** peace.

Over the centuries, a wide spectrum of attitudes and efforts have attempted to provide and sustain peace to the **masses**.

Even during times of **shared** peace, many of us suffer the absence of **personal** peace.

The collective cry of the generations is, "**where** can I find peace of which I can be certain?"

Central Point...

Provision of Peace

God has provided for our peace through His **love** for us, and the **gift** of His **Son**.

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.* ² *Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

No Jesus → **No** peace
Know Jesus → **Know** peace

Focal Point...

The Path to Peace

When we embrace the notion that true peace comes from God, then the best place to start in the **pursuit** of peace is to pursue **God**.

Philippians 4:6-9 *Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

We can realize true peace when we...

...stop **worrying**.

Matthew 6:25-34 *"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? 31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. 34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.*

...pray about **everything**.

1 Thessalonians 6:16-18 *Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

...meditate on what is **holy**.

Philippians 4:8 *Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected.*

Romans 8:6 *If people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, there is death. But if their thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace.*

...put what we've **learned** into **practice**.

James 1:22 *Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves.*

When we experience peace in our lifetime, we receive the strength to **resist** the following **barriers** to our peace:

- **Condemnation.**

Romans 8:1-2 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

- **Guilt.**

Psalm 32:1-5 Happy is the person
whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.

2 Happy is the person
whom the LORD does not consider guilty
and in whom there is nothing false.

3 When I kept things to myself,
I felt weak deep inside me.
I moaned all day long.

4 Day and night you punished me.
My strength was gone as in the summer heat.

5 Then I confessed my sins to you
and didn't hide my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my sins to the LORD,"
and you forgave my guilt.

- **Doubt.**

Psalm 77:1-14 I cry out to God; yes, I shout.
Oh, that God would listen to me!

2 When I was in deep trouble,
I searched for the Lord.
All night long I prayed, with hands lifted toward heaven,
but my soul was not comforted.

3 I think of God, and I moan,
overwhelmed with longing for his help.

4 You don't let me sleep.
I am too distressed even to pray!

5 I think of the good old days,
long since ended,

6 when my nights were filled with joyful songs.
I search my soul and ponder the difference now.

7 Has the Lord rejected me forever?
Will he never again be kind to me?

8 Is his unfailing love gone forever?
Have his promises permanently failed?

9 Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he slammed the door on his compassion?

10 And I said, "This is my fate;
the Most High has turned his hand against me."

11 But then I recall all you have done, O LORD;
I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.

12 They are constantly in my thoughts.
I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works.

13 O God, your ways are holy.

Is there any god as mighty as you?

14 You are the God of great wonders!

You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations.

Turning Point . . .

Our utmost desire is to **live** in peace. The good news is that God through Christ offers **true** lasting peace.

True peace in our lives gives us the ability to be at peace with **God, others, and ourselves.**

John 14:27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

Our challenge: To continue to **resist** or **embrace** the peace that God has provided through Christ.

Seekers – You cannot embrace peace without embracing the One who provides it. To invite Christ into your heart, simply pray,

"Heavenly Father I admit that I have left you out of my life, but this morning, I believe that Christ is your Son and that He died for my sin of rejecting you and that you raised Him from the dead. I confess Him to be my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Believers – simply ask God,

*Heavenly Father –" Am I embracing or resisting your peace for my life?
In Jesus' Name, Amen*