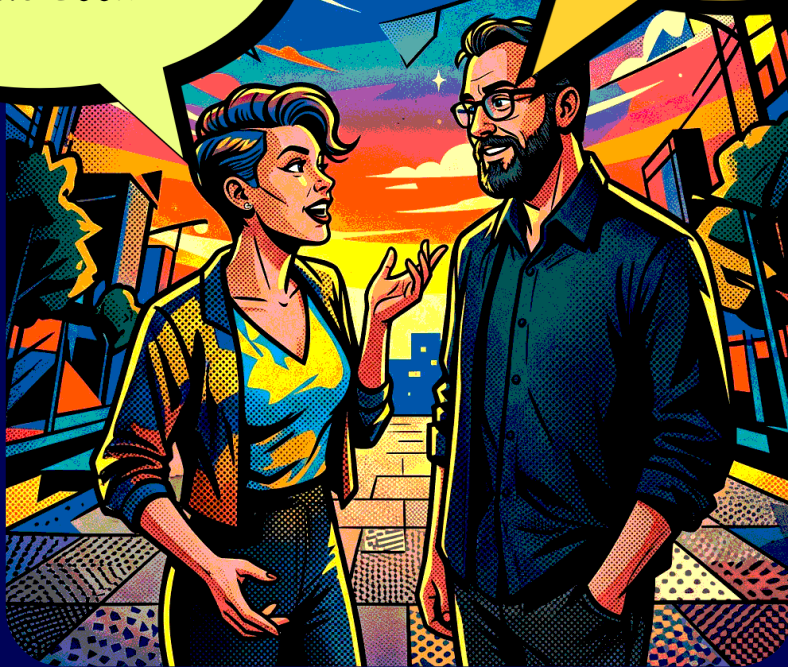


THE PEACE THAT JESUS GIVES

—PEACE AT ALL TIMES IN EVERY WAY—

I am saying ... that
is what is written
in the Book.

So you're saying ...
peace at all times in
every way?



1. Now — it was now time to submit to the instruction and receive the peace that Jesus would give them.

- (2 Thessalonians 3:16a ESV) **Now** may the Lord of peace himself give you peace.
- (2 Corinthians 5:21–6:2 NLT) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, **so that we could be made right with God through Christ.** 1 As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. 2 For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." **Indeed, the "right time" is now.** Today is the day of salvation.

The immediate context for this blessing is Paul's rebuke of the sinful, disorderly busybodies and the disciplinary instructions he gave the rest of the fellowship. Now was the time for them to submit to and obey the Lord and he would replace the fear and contention in the fellowship with his peace.

A. They had all the necessary information.

- i. Paul had taught the Thessalonians in person.
 - (Acts 17:1–2 ESV) Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, **they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.** 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, **and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures.**
- ii. He had written two letters to them.

B. They had been sufficiently warned about those who would spread fear and undermine their peace.

- (2 Thessalonians 2:2 ESV) **Not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us,** to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

C. Paul authenticates this letter.

- (2 Thessalonians 3:17 ESV) **I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine;** it is the way I write.

D. Those who spread misinformation are a serious threat to the peace and harmony of a local fellowship.

Those who were unsettling the group may have been intentionally deceiving, but they also may have been busybodies who unwittingly and foolishly were undermining the faith of the others.

E. Utter reliance on the grace of God is our "must have" essential for success to live a life of peace.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:18 ESV - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

2. THE BLESSING: That the Lord of peace himself would give them peace at all times in every way.

- (2 Thessalonians 3:16 ESV) **Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.** The Lord be with you all.

A. Jesus is the Lord of peace.

B. Jesus offers to give peace at all times in every way.

C. It is very possible that a person has peace with God but is not experiencing the fruit of their peaceful relationship with God.

D. Position: Peace with God through Christ.

- (Romans 5:1 ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Justified ... δικαιόω [dikaioō] – put right with, justify, vindicate, declare righteous, i.e. **to cause one to be in a right relation**; guilt removed, set free, cleared of transgressions; to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be.

- i. Before our holy God we are made righteous, considered righteous and pronounced righteous through our faith in Jesus Christ.
- ii. We are made such as we ought to be in Christ.

We were created to be at peace with our Creator but were enemies until being justified through faith in Christ by which we were reconciled to a peace relationship with our Creator—such as we ought to be.

- (Romans 5:10a ESV) **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.**
- iii. Adam and Eve were at peace with God until they disobeyed God.

They were then no longer right with God and fear and insecurity displaced the peace they had enjoyed in their relationship to God.

- (Genesis 3:8–10a ESV) And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, **and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.** 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said

to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “**I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid.**”

E. **Experience:** The Lord of peace himself offers his peace at all times in every way—peace no matter what time; peace no matter what circumstance.

Give ... δίδωμι [didomi] – to give; **to cause to have; to supply, furnish, necessary things.**

QUESTION: So what is the nature and character of this peace that the Lord promises to give us at all times and in every way?

- (2 Thessalonians 3:16 ESV) **Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.** The Lord be with you all.

I. Some basic facts about the peace that Jesus gives.

A. It is only possible if we first have peace **with** God.

- (Romans 5:1 ESV) Therefore, **since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

B. It is supplied through Christ.

- (2 Thessalonians 3:16a ESV) Now may **the Lord of peace himself give you peace** at all times in every way.

C. It is the fruit of Spirit.

- (Galatians 5:22a ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace** ...

D. It is inseparably connected to righteousness.

- (Isaiah 32:17 ESV) And **the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.**

E. It is hidden from the unbelieving world.

- (Luke 19:41–42 ESV) And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, “**Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**”

F. It works—Jesus gives peace that gives peace.

Jesus gives unconditional peace that effectively keeps hearts from being troubled and afraid; unlike the world that gives peace that may or may not give peace and is dependent on events and circumstances.

- (John 14:27 ESV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. **Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be**

troubled, neither let them be afraid.

II. Some basic facts about experiencing the peace that Jesus gives in my daily life.

A. The daily reality of peace that I experience as I rejoice in hope of the glory of God is only possible because of the grace in which I stand.

- (Romans 5:2 ESV) **Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

B. The peace that Jesus gives is beyond our intellectual understanding, beyond our wisdom and experienced only by grace through faith.

- (Philippians 4:7 ESV) And the peace of God, **which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

C. I am able to believe, rejoice in and experience the wonderfully overwhelming reality in my daily life of being right with God **because the peace of God guards my heart and mind.**

D. I am able to know, rejoice in and experience the wonderfully overwhelming reality that God is sovereign and will work all things together for good in my life because I have a love relationship with him and am called according to his purpose.

- Romans 8:28 ESV - **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**

E. Growing in grace is our “must have” for a life of peace—Growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ provides stability for us on the path of peace.

- (2 Peter 3:17–18a ESV) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Question: What are some possible reasons why you don't have this peace that the Lord offers to give us?

I. **Diagnosis:** You have a faith problem.

You do not believe God for his solution to your troubles and this has left you susceptible to a mere human perspective in regard to what is happening in your life. The result is that you are overly concerned with things that you should instead be immediately running to God with in prayers and petitions. **[Yes, easier said**

than done but doable and necessary.]

- (Philippians 4:4–7 ESV) **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice**. 5 Let your reasonableness **[gentleness]** be known to everyone. **The Lord is at hand**; 6 **do not be anxious about anything, but in everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

- A. **Condition:** You are not being led by the Spirit, so joy and gentleness are absent from your life.
- B. **Condition:** You are not living with a consciousness of the nearness of the Lord.
- C. **Condition:** You are not trusting the Lord by taking your anxiety before him by prayer and supplication.
- D. **Result:** Your options for relief or rescue are limited to your earthly, human understanding.
- E. **NEON SIGN:** God is not guarding your heart and mind.

Your heart and mind are not longer guarded by the wonderful reality of your right relationship with God and your hope of glory.

II. **Diagnosis:** You have a righteousness problem.

- (Isaiah 32:17 ESV) And **the effect of righteousness will be peace**, and **the result of righteousness**, quietness and trust forever.
- A. The effect of righteousness is peace.
Not having peace is an indication of a lack of, or absence of, righteousness. A basic meaning of righteousness is doing the right thing before God.
 - B. You are not sowing righteousness.
 - (Hosea 10:12 ESV) **Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love**; break up your fallow ground, **for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.**
 - C. You do not have a passion for the transforming work of the word of God and so you stumble.
 - (Psalm 119:165 ESV) **Great peace have those who love your law**; nothing can make them stumble.

D. You are not submitting to God's discipline and so you are not cultivating the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- (Hebrews 12:10b–11 ESV) ... **he [God] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness**. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, **but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

E. You are not practicing the wisdom from above.

- (James 3:17–18 ESV) **But the wisdom from above** is first pure, **then peaceable**, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 **And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

F. You are practicing earthly wisdom.

- (James 3:14–15 ESV) **But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts**, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 **This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.**

G. You have trusted in your own way and have eaten the fruit of lies.

- (Hosea 10:13 ESV) You have **plowed iniquity**; you have **reaped injustice**; you have **eaten the fruit of lies**. **Because you have trusted in your own way** and in the multitude of your warriors.

CONCLUSION: Do you have the peace that Jesus gives?

- (2 Thessalonians 3:16 ESV) **Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way**. The Lord be with you all.