

BE LIKE CHRIST!

*Developing the
Character of Jesus
in Our Lives*

Introduction

- While peace is something we all desire in the details of this life, there is a far greater peace with greater implications.
- And that is peace with God and from God.
- One of the fruit of the spirit peace (Gal. 5:22)

The Peace Of God

- What is peace?
- From the Greek word--εἰρήνη (eirene) –
- To be in a state of tranquility or calmness.
- Harmony and concord.

“Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one”
— John Lennon, Imagine

The Peace Of God

- The source of this peace – God – “God of peace” –
- [Romans 15:33](#), “Now the God of peace ...”
- [Romans 16:20](#), “And the God of peace ...”
- [Philippians 4:9](#), The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace...”
- [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#), “Now may the God of peace”
- As we can see there are many passages that directly address God as the God of peace.

The Peace Of God

- [Phil. 4:6-7](#), “*Be anxious for nothing...*” This peace “surpasses all understanding.”
- This means that it is something difficult to describe – especially to one in the world who doesn’t understand it and doesn’t want to either.

The Peace Of God

- The reason it is difficult to understand is because it comes from God.
- Jesus told His disciples, *“Peace I leave with you...”*
([John 14:27](#))
- It rules in our hearts - [Colossians 3:15](#), *“And let the peace of God...”*

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- By purifying your hearts and minds –
- This involves both God's part (being made right with Him – obeying the gospel) and us putting forth the necessary efforts to cleanse ourselves.
- [Romans 8:6](#) says, *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*
- [Colossians 3:15](#) speaks of the peace of God ruling in our hearts.
- WE must strive to live pure lives if we want peace.
- Living with impurities will bring misery, fear, guilt and other qualities that rob us of our peace.

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- By seeking it – [1 Peter 3:10-12](#), *“For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, ...*A quotation from [Psalm 34:12-16](#)
- Peace is something we ought to crave.

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- By learning to trust in God –
- that is what faith is about.
- Proverbs 3:5–6, *“Trust in the Lord ...”*
- Isaiah 26:3. In a passage addressing Judah (and actually looking toward the Messiah and His kingdom) he says of God, *““You will keep him in perfect peace...”*

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- By not worrying –
- [Matthew 6:25-34](#) finds Jesus speaking about not worrying.
- How many fail to find peace because they worry too much about everything?
- NOTE that this does not mean we never show concern –
- it deals with anxiety –
- an obsession with worry.

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- Through self-acceptance –
- to be at peace with yourself, you have to accept who you are.
- In this I do NOT mean that you accept ungodly behavior in your life!
- You have to take care of your sins.
- I mean you need to accept your place in life and if you are striving to do your best, accept yourself.
- Don't be your own worst enemy!

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- By being content –
- [Philippians 4:11-13](#) – *Not that I speak in regard to need..*
- Be content in whatever state you find yourself in.

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- Through keeping His word –
- [Ephesians 6:15](#) - in describing our spiritual armor, Paul noted that our feet are to be shod with “the gospel of peace.”
- [Psalm 119:165](#), “*Great peace have those ...*”
- [Philippians 4:8-9](#), “*Finally, brethren...*”

How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- Through prayer –
- Again [Philippians 4:6-7](#). When we are anxious, we need to learn to pray and cast our cares on Him.
- He does care ([1 Peter 5:6-7](#)).
- [James 5:16](#) tells us that **the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.**
- And don't forget to pray for others – [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#) tells us to pray for kings that we may be able to lead a quiet and peaceable life.

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How To Obtain The Peace Of God

- Live in peace –
- Again [Matthew 5:9](#), “Blessed are the peacemakers.”
- [2 Corinthians 13:11](#), “*Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete...*”
- [Heb. 12:14](#), “*Pursue peace...*”

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