

Peace

- The world is in turmoil!
- We have seen once again senseless violence in our nation.
- Our politicians have fired their shots at each other.
- People have gone to social media to give their opinion on the situation.
- The lack of peacefulness in our nation is very evident.
- There seems to be a lack of peace in the world but is peace the absence of conflict?
- *I heard the bells on Christmas Day; their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the word repeat of peace on earth, good-will to men! - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*
- We long to have that kind of peace. That peace on Earth.
- I listen to Christmas music all the time and look forward to Christmas but there are times that there is unrest in my heart. Where is the peace when I see and feel the unrest?
- Even if you take away the violence in the world there seems to be unrest with people during Christmas season.
- There is a certain level of stress during Christmas time.
- The businesses are stressed about making enough sells so they can improve their bottom line.
- People are stressed about getting everything done in time. Buying the right gift and getting the cards out in time. What about all the baking that has to be done. The Christmas play, the Christmas eve service, and all the other events that we have to do.
- Oh I can't stand the hustle and bustle of the season! We just want to scream!!!!
- Ok, calm down and everyone take a deep breath in and exhale. Do it again.
- We will get through this season.
- What about those that face illness and even the loss of a loved one during this time?
- How can they have peace? What about those that struggle financially and only have enough money to provide the basic needs of their family?
- Where does their peace come from?
- *You can find peace amidst the storms that threaten you. -Joseph B. Wirthlin*
- *God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing. -C. S. Lewis*
- Our peace is not tied to our situation.
- Our peace is found in God. Not away from Him but with Him.
- We have peace in times of sickness, pressure and hardships.

- **Psalm 41:1–3 (NLT) — 1 Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The LORD rescues them when they are in trouble. 2 The LORD protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies. 3 The LORD nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health.**
- **Matthew 11:28 (NLT) — 28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.**
- We can have peace in our time of grief.
- **John 14:1–3 (NLT) — 1 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**
- **Job 19:25–26 (NLT) — 25 “But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. 26 And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God!**
- Jesus has prepared a place for us and we know that Jesus lives and is waiting for us to be with Him.
- We know where our peace comes from. We know that it is in our relationship with God that we have peace.
- *We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God. -Thomas Merton*
- When we have this peace in our hearts it has an effect on our lives.
- We have forgiveness in our hearts.
- We see in the story of Stephen when they were stoning him for preaching about Jesus. His forgiveness for his killers.
- **Acts 7:60 (NLT) — 60 He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.**
- We too can have this forgiveness in our hearts.
- We can have encouragement in any situation because of the peace we have.
- **Philippians 4:11–13 (NLT) — 11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.**
- Another effect of peace in our lives is health and healing.

- **Proverbs 14:30 (NLT) — 30 A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.**
- **Romans 8:28 (NLT) — 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.**
- The last effect that peace has is hope.
- **Romans 15:13 (NLT) — 13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- How do we maintain the peace?
- First is to remain in Christ. Always have that relationship with Him.
- **John 16:33 (NLT) — 33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”**
- **John 15:4 (NLT) — 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.**
- Second is through living by the Holy Spirit.
- **Galatians 5:22 (NLT) — 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**
- Peace continues in our lives as we are obedient to God’s word.
- **Joshua 1:8–9 (NLT) — 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**
- **Psalms 119:165–167 (NLT) — 165 Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble. 166 I long for your rescue, LORD, so I have obeyed your commands. 167 I have obeyed your laws, for I love them very much.**
- The last way to maintain our peace is through prayer and meditation.
- **Isaiah 26:3 (NLT) — 3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!**
- **Psalms 1:1–3 (NLT) — 1 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. 2 But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.**

- Jesus the prince of peace was born in a manger many years ago and because He was born we have peace.
- Jesus the prince of peace one day will return and rule over all creation and we have peace.
- Peace is not found anywhere in this world. It is only found in Jesus!
- Let's quit looking for peace in things, people or even the lack of violence and war. Peace is in the hearts of those who love Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.
- Now let's be instruments of peace in this world.