



Peace On Earth: A Promise Beyond Comprehension

Message 2

Announcements

- The 2019 Community Series, *Above The Noise: Find Peace When Life Gets Loud* kicks off January 12&13. Text **group** to **25827** and tell us your plans on hosting a group.

Warm-up

It is a scientific fact that certain aromas and fragrances spark specific thoughts and memories. What is your favorite Holiday fragrance, and what memory or thought does it evoke?

Overview

Last week, in the first message of the *Holidaze* series, we learned that traveling light is a blessing when we no longer carry the baggage of unforgiveness. We can travel light when we pray, forgive and bless those closest to us. In the second message, we learned the process by which the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of peace in our lives.

Word and Application

The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of peace in our lives through **Inspiration, Importance, and Implementation.**

INSPIRATION

There are a number of ways that we can be *inspired* to seek after the fruit of the Spirit.

- **Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Isaiah 9:6.** We learn from these Scriptures that *peace* is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and Jesus is called the Prince of Peace.
- How is the fruit of the Holy Spirit attained in our lives? (See **John 15: 1-5**)
- What is the significance to followers of Jesus Christ that one of His titles is the Prince of Peace? Does this *inspire* you to seek peace?

IMPORTANCE

In a world filled with pain, despair, uncertainty, and death, it is impossible to find true lasting peace outside of Christ and His amazing promises.

- **Read John 16:33.** How does this Scripture change your perspective on the destructive power of anxiety and stress that is in the world? What does it mean to be **in** Jesus Christ? How does the fact that Jesus has overcome the world benefit those who are in Him?

IMPLEMENTATION

Although implementation varies from person to person, there are at least four important steps involved to experience the peace God promises us.

1. **Lay a biblical foundation.**

Read Isaiah 26:3.

In Hebrew, this promised peace is double *shalom*. It is more than the absence of anxiety or conflict. It is a state of well-being. The Hebrew word for *steadfast* means “to be founded on” or “to rest” on God’s Word. If our ultimate reliance is on anything other than God Himself, then the promise of peace will prove almost impossible to experience. Identify new habits and/or changes needed in your own life in order to experience the promised peace found in Isaiah 26:3.

2. **Lift your burdens and anxieties to the Lord.**

Read Psalm 55:22 and Philippians 4:6.

What specific instructions are we given in these two verses? Is it possible to experience peace without *casting* or *praying*?

3. **Let the peace of God rule and guard your heart and mind.**

Read Philippians 4:7.

How is the “peace of God” different from the “peace of the world”?

4. **Look out for the stress and anxiety that is typically waiting to test your newfound peace and tranquility.**

Read Philippians 4:8-9.

How many things are listed in Philippians 4:8 that we are instructed to think on?

What is the connection between our thoughts and anxiety? Our thoughts and peace?

Life Challenge

After reading **Philippians 4:8**, you identified how many things we are instructed to think on. For each, write a description of what those thoughts look like for you. When anxiety and stress threaten to steal your peace, refer back to this list to keep your thoughts in line with Philippians 4:8.

Prayer

Father, we thank You that Jesus is our Prince of Peace. Thank You for the fruit of peace that comes through Your Holy Spirit and abiding in Christ. We ask to rest on Your Word and think on all the things that bring You honor and praise. Pray for the specific needs of your group.