

Peace Be With You

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

As we begin Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we rejoice with the angels that God sent Jesus as the Prince of Peace. Yet, in a world full of anger, brutality and war, it is sometimes hard to feel assured that Jesus is Lord over all and is fulfilling His promise of peace.

The idea that peace is merely the absence of violence or conflict is only scratching the surface of what peace really means. Our Christian understanding of peace comes most fully from the Hebrew word “shalom,” a word that is usually translated to mean “peace.”



In its full meaning, shalom means wholeness, completeness, rest, wellbeing, safety, harmony, perfection, fullness and the absence of strife and disagreement. Peace is more than a state of mind or a reflection of outward circumstances.

Peace expresses both our hope for wholeness and its reality in our relationship with God, within ourselves and in our relationships with others and the world. The Bible always points us towards a transcendent wholeness that is rooted in God’s truth and His desire for justice. It points us towards the work of the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, who gives us “peace, not as the world gives” (John 14:27) and “reconciles to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:20).

We receive God’s complete, limitless peace as one of the fruits of the Spirit and by living out the character of God wherever He calls us in the world. In Matthew 5:9 Jesus tells us that peacemakers are blessed and called the children of God. Therefore, let us strive to be peacemakers by seeking the wholeness of God not only in our personal spiritual wellbeing but as we work to heal conflicts and broken relationships between individuals, communities, peoples and nations.

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What You Can Do

PRAY that God will reconcile all to Himself.

SEEK to know God better and to accept the eternal peace He freely offers.

EXAMINE your life and seek God’s help in turning brokenness to the wholeness of shalom.

PRAY that God will guide you to seek forgiveness and restore to wholeness any broken relationships you may have.

FORGIVE those who have harmed you.

BEFRIEND people who are strangers to you, perhaps those from a different faith or ethnic background.

LEARN about conflicts that concern you in your community, your country and around the world.

ASK God to lead you to participate in His healing, wholeness and reconciliation.

BE God’s hands and feet to change the world as He desires and help bring His kingdom in.

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