



## **Teach us to Pray - Let God's Peace Rule in Your Heart**

**Sunday Sermon – 4/6/2025**

**Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor**

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**

**The Kingdom is both physical and spiritual.**

The Kingdom of God represents the King's territory, governmental rule and reign, and His citizens.

**Spiritual Kingdom of God:**

**Luke 17:21 "The kingdom of God is within you."** This phrase means that God's reign and power are present in the hearts of believers by the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person, one of the dignitaries of the Trinity, which is God.

**Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit allows us the kingdom life Jesus came to this earth to provide, a life of righteousness, peace, and Joy, setting us free from daily fears and lust that come from the curse, our flesh, and ungodly forces.

*For it is the Christ in us which is the hope of glory!*

**Spiritual Rule of the Kingdom:**

The spiritual rule of the kingdom is in our hearts, it encompasses peace, provided by the love of God.

There are two types of peace Jesus provides: peace with God and the peace of God.

**Peace with God**

To understand peace with God, we must first recognize our state of being at our natural birth; we are born with an inherited sin nature from Adam and Eve.

**1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all died even so in Christ all shall be made alive.**

We are born enemies of God because of our sinful nature.

**Colossians 1:21 "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior".**

God took the initiative by sending His Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life and died for our sins.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**



**Romans 5:10, (NLT).** “For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son”.

Peace with God was provided for us as a gift because of the finished works of Jesus Christ, we are now His friends and covenant partners.

### **The Peace of God**

**Colossians 3:14-15:** "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

For the Peace of God to reign in our hearts, we must put on love. The Greek word for love is "Agape," which signifies unconditional love that is expressed deliberately through attitude, words, and actions.

*"Putting on love" means actively nurturing and expressing love in our actions and character, as if it were an article of clothing. This suggests that love is not just an emotion but an action word, demonstrated through deliberate choices and a way of living.*

We are commanded by Jesus to love:

**Matthew 22:37-40** 37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

When a believer chooses to love, it will communicate to God and others.

Every believer possesses this type of love because, upon salvation, the Bible states in **Romans 5:5 that the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

The more a person chooses to love, the more the peace of God will fill and rule in their hearts.

The word for "peace" in Greek is Eirene, a state of the soul, assured by salvation in Christ Jesus. This word is parallel to the Old Testament term “shalom,” which comprises wholeness, soundness, health, well-being, and prosperity. Nothing is missing, nothing is broken, and everything is complete.

Peace is a supernatural manifestation we receive from the Fruit of the Spirit (Love) that produces uncommon assurance that all is well, no matter what!

When we let this type of peace rule in our hearts, then our soul will be flooded with joy, and we will have the strength to do whatever is necessary in an excellent way!

### **Jesus left His Peace for us .**

**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Here are some examples of Jesus demonstrating peace:

It's important to note that Jesus didn't leave us just any kind of peace; He left us His peace. This peace is not based on the world's definition but is rooted in the peace He experienced in the Spirit and demonstrated during His time on Earth.



### **Jesus is our peace:**

*One of the many manifestations of who Jesus Christ is peace.*

**Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This prophecy identifies Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," highlighting His role as the author and provider of peace.**

**Ephesians 2:14 (NLT) For Christ himself has brought peace to us.**

*Jesus walked in peace while He was here on the earth.*

Jesus let peace rule in His heart when He was tempted in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. In **Matthew chapter 4**, we see Jesus keeping His peace when tempted by Satan by speaking and adhering to the word of God.

*Jesus knew that the Father loved Him, so He was assured that He didn't have to compromise His relationship with the Father to get what was promised to Him beforehand.*

Jesus kept His Peace when He was in a storm, and when others were freaking out!

**Mark 4:37-41 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"**

*Jesus knew that the Father loved Him, so He was assured that He would rest in the middle of the storm because He was supposed to get to the other side.*

Jesus operated in peace when He heard that Lazarus was sick and ultimately had died.

**John 11:5-7 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."**

Even though He loved Lazarus, He had kept peace relevant in His heart and waited two more days so that the Lord's will could be fulfilled regarding the purpose of Lazarus's death and to raise him later. He allowed His peace to govern His emotions so that He would act in wisdom and truth, rather than based on His feelings.

Jesus exhibited remarkable peace even when those around Him sought to kill Him by throwing Him off a cliff.

**Luke 4:28-30. The passage notes that all those in the synagogue, upon hearing His words, were filled with wrath. They rose up, cast Him out of the city, and led Him to the edge of the hill on which the city was built, intending to throw Him down.**

Even when it appeared that the devil's scheme would succeed, His peace allowed faith to rise within Him, thwarting the devil's plans. Ultimately, they could not harm Him, and He continued on His path.



*In times where doubt, fear, and unbelief will try to overtake us, which align with the devil's agenda, which is to kill, steal, and destroy, make sure you keep Peace, which will always complement faith.*

...and he walked **peacefully** through the midst of them. However, despite their intentions, Jesus passed through the crowd unharmed, full of peace, and continued on His way. They could not harm Him because He let the peace of God rule in His heart.

There are times when we have to keep our peace until the manifestation of our faith takes place.

*Sometimes, when overwhelming feelings arise, you have to keep speaking peace to yourself: "Nothing missing, nothing broken, everything complete."*

Keeping your peace will allow you to control your actions and hold your tongue as you walk out your season and reap the harvest for the reward that is due on the other side.

**Matthew 26:64-68** Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

**Matthew 27:11-14** Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." 12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

Notice that they were spitting on him, beating him, and calling him names, making fun of him. Jesus did not defend himself with words or speak any falsehoods against them. He only agreed with what they were saying that aligned with the Word of God. Peace allowed Him to do it.

Jesus kept His peace even though He was being crucified; He did not allow His words to reflect the anguish, but he was able to pray for his enemies and do good to them.

**Luke 23:34** Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

On the cross, as Jesus' pain grew worse, He allowed His work to be greater by offering salvation to one of the thieves on the cross.

**Luke 23:42-43** Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."