

## The Peace of God Part 1

*“27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27 KJV)*

The Lord Jesus had promised His disciples peace. That He will give us peace even in the most difficult situation in our lives. The setting that He said that in *John 14* to His disciples was in the night that he was going to be arrested and suffer. The disciples were about to pass through one of the terrible period in their lives where they will be facing persecutions, and just before that Jesus promised them peace.

Apostle Paul said, *“4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” (Philippians 4:4-9 KJV)* Here the peace of God was promised to be given to us when we follow the simple advices that the Word of God is telling to us to do. God wants us to trust Him in times of trials and to remain gentle and keep ourselves under self-control being sure that God is near to see and near to act in our behalf in facing the circumstances. *“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Philippians 4:6 KJV)* \* When we are faced with trials the first thing we do is to avoid entertaining doubts and fears, instead, with thankfulness in our hearts, we present our request to God by presenting to Him what we are passing through. \* This is the confidence that we have in God that He is near to us. As we pray, we receive first the peace of God that surpass all our understanding, *“7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7 KJV)* and that peace of God will help us to think of good things, *“8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8 KJV)* Apostle Paul also linked to the Philippians that the peace of God will come into their lives and would accompanied them if they have put into practice what they had received of teaching from Paul: *“9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” (Philippians 4:9 KJV)* Therefore when you apply the teaching of the Word of God that the church is giving to you then the peace of God will come and settle in your life.

Your obedience to the instructions of God's Word will bring the peace of God in your life. In *Leviticus 26:6* God had promised His people peace: *“6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I*

*will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.” (Leviticus 26:6 KJV)* God had promised His people peace if they would obey His instructions: *“1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God. 2 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. 3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; 4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.” (Leviticus 26:1-6 KJV)* The peace of God and His abundant blessings will come true in our lives if we keep ourselves away from idols worship, committing ourselves to observe the Sabbaths, have reverence to God's church in supporting it and in walking in the instruction that we receive from God's Word.

God revealed Himself to Gideon and commissioned him to deliver the Israelites from the hand of the Midianites. When Gideon realized that he met God he was afraid, and he thought that he was going to die. At that moment God offered him peace, and Gideon in response to that he built an altar to the Lord in Ophrah and he called it Jehovah shalom which means, 'Jehovah is peace': *“22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. 23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. 24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (Judges 6:22-24 KJV)* After Gideon did that, the Lord asked Gideon to do some other things: *“25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it. 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.” (Judges 6:25-26 KJV)* From the perspective of God, there will be no real peace unless Gideon would deal with the altar of Baal that his father had. We need to understand that when God promised us and sent us peace that does not mean that we need to do nothing about it. There are things that we need to do and achieve in response to God's instruction to let that peace will continue to reign in our lives. Jesus after kneeling down in Gethsemane, found the cross in front of Him. *“20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” (Colossians 1:20 KJV)* When Jesus passed through the cross, then he reached his destination and was at the right hand of the throne of God, *“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)*

Gideon obeyed God and put into practice what God told him to do *“27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not*

*do it by day, that he did it by night. 28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.” (Judges 6:27-28 KJV)*

We really need to work with God and to submit to His will, doing what He really wants us to do, *“21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. 22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.” (Job 22:21-22 KJV)*

The peace of God will come to us and stay with us if we keep our mind on Him, fully trusting Him, showing that by obedience to His commands: *“3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” (Isaiah 26:3 KJV)* Willingness to obey God’s command and instruction will bring peace in our lives, *“18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.” (Isaiah 48:18 KJV)* When we obey God’s commands and do what is right and our ministry goes along the will of God and under His direction there will be peace out of the work of our hands, *“17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.” (Isaiah 32:17 KJV)*

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and the punishment of our sins that was put upon Him brought us peace, *“5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5 KJV)* In that first day of His resurrection, Jesus went to see His disciples, *“19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.” (John 20:19-23 KJV)* The disciples were shut behind doors because of their fear of the Jews. But Jesus reached them and gave them His peace, He showed them the evidence of His resurrection, and He breathed on them, saying, *“Receive ye the Holy Ghost”*, and He sent them to go to others, *“21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” (John 20:21 KJV)* So the peace that they had received from Jesus was intended not to be kept behind the shut doors, but to take them outside to reach others. So here peace was given for a mission to be done and for a task to take place. *“23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.” (John 20:23 KJV)* \* What is understood that the disciples should go and preach and deal with the peoples’ sin in accordance to God’s Word. \* If there is repentance and turning from sin then the disciples will approve. But if there is no repentance then the disciples shall not approve the peoples’ ways of life. \* What Jesus required from them here was to help the people in dealing with their sins. As they received peace from Jesus, they needed to teach, correct and admonish others, *“15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye*

*thankful.” (Colossians 3:15 KJV)* *“19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” (Romans 14:19 KJV)* When sin is dealt with then the peace of God will come and settle and remain in peoples’ lives, but when sin is not dealt with then doubts, fears, troubles and stagnation will continue.

After that meeting with the disciples in *John 20*, after Christ’s resurrection, the following what had happened, *“24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (John 20:24-25 KJV)* Thomas was not with them in that meeting with the Lord, so when he came the disciples informed him about what had happened. Thomas should be happy, but instead he hardened his heart with lack of faith and non-believe of what he heard. *Circumstances as such will take the peace from our midst. People who behave without faith will disobey the Lord’s instruction and will delay the mission of the church. The Lord needed to visit them again to correct the situation and to deal with their stubbornness and hard headedness.* Jesus went to them and the doors were locked because of fear and lack of peace inspite that He visited them eight days before and gave them His peace *“26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” (John 20:26-29 KJV)* The Lord is our peace maker, and will not leave us without peace. He would come and correct wrong things in our lives and deal with circumstances that are beyond our capabilities.

\* The Lord will always show us the way if we are willing to have peace and to be restored back to what He needs us to do for Him. \* There are certain things we need to do by ourselves to let the peace of Jesus to come back into our midst. \* For the situation of Thomas, Jesus needed to go Himself to bring the peace back. \* In other situations we need to do certain things by ourselves to let the peace of God come back again. \* Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea to bring peace to His disciples when they were in the ship, but the men of the ship needed to throw the prophet Jonah out of the ship to make the sea calm down. Again there are certain things we need to do by ourselves to let the peace of Jesus to come back into our midst.

*“17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.” (Proverbs 29:17 KJV)* \* Now here for example, the child correction, God had given it in the hand of the parents to do. When they will obey, then the result of their obedience is rest, peace, joy and delight. \* But if they will not do, or they are not willing to be firm and strict with the children, then the children will go wild and will do wrong things and that will cause more troubles in the life of the family and the house that they live in and there will be lack of peace.

***“11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” (Psalm 37:11 KJV)*** \* The meek are those who are humble and willing to go along the terms of God and on His Word they live and trust. \* As we humble ourselves before God, and accept to live according to His will and Word, then the blessings of God will flow to us and we will be enjoying an abundance of peace. ***“37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.” (Psalm 37:37 KJV)*** \* Some they think that it is not necessary for people to be perfect, or when we say to be perfect is something luxurious and not essential for living. But, what the Scripture tells us? The perfect man and the upright one, they have at the end peace. \* Lack of perfection and uprightness will take away peace from our lives. We really need to work it out with the Lord to bring peace and we need to aim for uprightness and for perfection to allow the peace of God to flow into our lives. ***“14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” (2 Peter 3:14 KJV)*** Therefore if you are looking to have peace in your life, then work it out to be perfect, without sins, without spot and blameless.

***My dear and beloved:*** If you want to live in peace and joy, and well provided then work it out with the Lord, observing the following:

- Follow the simple advices that the Word of God is telling to you to do. Trust God and obey Him. God had promised His people peace if they would obey His instructions.
- Remain gentle and keep yourself under self-control being sure that God is near to see and near to act in your behalf in dealing with the circumstances around you.
- Avoid entertaining doubts and fears, instead, with thankfulness in your heart present your request to God. As you pray, you will receive first the peace of God that surpass all understanding.
- The peace of God will come true in your life if you keep yourself away from idols worship, committing yourself to observe the Sabbaths, regularly attending the church worship, have reverence to God’s church in supporting it and in walking in the instruction that you receive from God’s Word.
- There are things that you need to do and achieve in response to God’s instruction to let His peace to continue and reign in your life.
- Put in your mind when sin is dealt with then the peace of God will come and settle and remain, but when sin is not dealt with then, doubts, fears, troubles and stagnation will continue.
- To behave without faith and with stubbornness and hard headedness will take away peace from your life.
- The Lord is your peace maker, and will not leave you without peace. He would come and rebuke you and correct wrong things in your life and deal with circumstances that are beyond your capabilities. The Lord will always show you the way if you are willing to be restored back to what He needs you to do for Him. Put in your mind there are certain things you need to do by yourselves to let the peace of Jesus to come back into our midst.
- Aim for perfection, quit sinning, find out what pleases the Lord, keep examining yourself and find out what are the blemishes and the spots that had worked to take away peace from your life, and remove them.
- Peace is given for a mission to be done and for a task to take place to serve the Lord. Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the rest and peace and the joy that you had given me, and you had promised in your Word to those who obey you. Lord thank you for your teaching and the admonishment I received from you in this message.

*Come to God now and repent and renounce all your sins so you will receive the peace of God. Renounce your doubts, fears, anxieties and lack of faith. Repent of your stubbornness, hard headedness, and delay obedience. Repent and renounce doing your own will and plan. Repent of being irregular in attending the church, your lack of reading God’s Word and life of prayer. Repent and renounce your worldliness, the love of money, the lust and the love for the material things. Renounce your lack of commitment and non willingness to give to God your time and effort and your material things. Repent of your non willingness to discipline your children and raise them in the fear of God. Repent of all your idols and the wrong things that you are doing that contradict the Word of God and His will. Repent from wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Cry out to God and ask Him to help you to overcome your troubles. Lord I cry out to you, help me and deliver me from this problem in my life \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit my life into your hand to walk before you in a perfect way, blameless and without spot. Lord I commit myself to attend regularly the church worship and serve you and to get involved in the ministry and in the mission work of your church.*

*Lord thank you for my brethren and my sisters who repented and came back to you. Lord give them peace and help them to be directed into your path. Lord restore them back to you, and use them to serve you. Lord continue to rebuke and correct those who are not yet repented until they amend their ways.*

*Lord continue to bless us as your church as we continue to serve you and do your work and proclaim your will. Lord save us from the following trouble \_\_\_\_\_, and bring peace back into our mid. Lord lead us to help people who are in sin and bondages and are looking for help from you to be delivered and have peace. Lord enable us to clean those who are lepros. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to receive water baptism, and the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Peace of God Part 1. John 14:27. Philippians 4:4-9. Leviticus 26:1-6. Judges 6:22-28. Colossians 1:20. Hebrews 12:2. Job 22:21-22. Isaiah 26:3. Isaiah 48:18. Isaiah 32:17. Isaiah 53:5. John 20:19-29. Colossians 3:15. Romans 14:19. Proverbs 29:17.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf  
The Church Overseer  
Church of God  
United Arab Emirates  
Email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com)  
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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