

# Finding True Peace



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

# Finding True Peace

Learn to experience the peace that surpasses understanding

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ [www.godsaidso.com/dgw16](http://www.godsaidso.com/dgw16)

## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW16

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @  
[WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM](http://WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM)**

# Finding True Peace

Jesus? Are you living every day with this quality of peace? If not, do you want to experience true peace?

In this lesson, I want you to discover what it means to experience true peace. I want you to learn how to find this true peace. Then, I want you to commit your life to living in the peace that God provides.

## *The Quality Of Peace*

---

Do you want to know peace? Peace is a state of harmony and tranquility. Most people who are living on this earth are longing for peace – peace between world governments, peace with others, and peace with themselves. However, the quality of being at peace often seems to be elusive! Most are left fighting with others and fighting with themselves throughout their earthly lives and struggle to ever truly experience peace.

Why? Let me simply assert that peace will always be elusive as long as individuals do not find peace with God! Peace with God comes before having any other kind of true peace. For, any peace that comes without God is a false sense of peace. Therefore, it has been said: “**No** God, **no** peace. **Know** God, **know** peace.”

When Jesus’ birth was announced to the shepherds, a multitude of angels proclaimed: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14). Jesus Christ brought peace to people in this world! No, this peace has not miraculously appeared to everyone living on earth; but, it is available to everyone to experience. True peace on earth (during your earthly life) can only be known through Jesus Christ.

Consider Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Do you know the “peace of God which surpasses all understanding” which will guard your heart and mind through Christ

Not all “peace” is the same! Some have pursued “peace” – and are more stressed, worried, and contentious than ever! Some appear to be at peace; but, have major insecurities privately. Others experience peace in every area of their lives.

Why? Why are some living in peace and others are not? Why do individuals seem to be living with various degrees of peace? What is the source of the greatest peace we can possibly experience?

Again, not all “peace” is the same. The quality of the peace you experience will differ depending on where the peace originates. Ultimately, there are only two sources of peace – peace based on earthly things or peace based on God.

### **Peace based on earthly things**

Let’s first examine the “peace” that comes from earthly things. Ultimately, anything that is based on physical things can only be temporary – at best! John instructed, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

As the wise man Solomon searched for the true meaning of life and for happiness, he tested everything “under the sun” (everything he could experience upon this earth). He looked to earthly possessions; but, found that they would just be passed on to another when he died. He looked to earthly pleasures and relationships; but, found that

they would not last. He looked to earthly knowledge and wisdom; but, only found sorrow and grief. Therefore, as he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, he said that “all is vanity and grasping for the wind” (Ecclesiastes 1:14). Therefore, this man simply could not find peace in anything that was worldly – because every earthly thing ends in death!

Consider Jesus’ parable about a rich fool to see this point illustrated, in Luke 12:13-21: “Then one from the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ But He said to him, ‘Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?’ And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?” So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.’”

This man had put his faith in earthly things. He attempted to find joy, comfort, and ease in his physical wealth and circumstances. Perhaps he had felt at peace with all of the provisions he had made for himself. However, this man did not experience true peace – because God was not in any of his thoughts! Read back through this parable and notice how many times the word “I” is used. “What shall I do?...I will do this...I will pull down my barns and build greater...I will store all my crops and my goods...I will say to myself, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” Yet, when this man’s life ended – he lost everything!

Please understand that *anything* which can be taken from you at death cannot be the source of true peace! If the basis of your peace is something which only provides peace through your earthly life, you

can never have peace with the thought of death (your own death or the death of a loved one)!

You see, all earthly sources of peace are false promises for peace. They are counterfeits. They promise something they can never truly give – because they are incapable of providing it! However, the world is constantly promising peace and happiness through earthly things – through wealth, through physical pleasures, through earthly relationships, through earthly achievements, and through false religion.

Consider how the Scriptures speak of individuals who make false and empty promises for peace. Ezekiel chapter 13 discusses a situation among God’s people in which there were false prophets – who were claiming to speak the words of God (as if God had sent them); but, they were speaking lies to the people. Therefore, they were saying, “‘Peace!’ when there is no peace” (Ezekiel 13:10). Therefore, the people who followed this message (and did not prepare themselves in the way God desired) may have felt a temporary “peace”; but, it was a false peace that would soon pass whenever God would send destruction upon them! They would be unprepared and would not survive the destruction!

There are many ways in which people are being lured into false sources of peace today. Many times this is through the pursuit of worldly things (as we have already discussed). However, many are being lured into a false sense of peace through false religions. Religions throughout the world make many promises that cause people to believe they have peace. However, they are false senses of peace because they are not based upon God! Even within the “Christian” religion, there are many who believe they have peace with God; but, they do not really know God – because they have not obeyed Him! 2 Peter chapter 2 identifies that there will be false teachers today – just as there were false prophets previously. These false teachers will seduce many to follow after false doctrines and will make many false and empty promises which will lead many people into error. 2 Peter 2:18-19, especially, states: “For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them

liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

Therefore, do not be deceived by any of the false and empty promises made by the world and by false teachers/false prophets! Remember, John said that the “world is passing away, and the lust of it” (1 John 2:17)! Therefore, any kind of peace that is based upon worldly and false sources cannot be true peace!

## **Peace based on God**

After John states that the ways of the world are temporary, he states, “but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17)! Jesus made the same point in Matthew 6:19-21: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Then, notice carefully what Paul wrote in Romans 8:5-8: “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

To be “carnally minded” is to be focused on the things of this life, which (Paul says) results in death. This is spiritual death – and it results because the carnal mind is in opposition to God and never subjects itself to the laws and ways of God. The carnal mind produces carnal actions which are sinful in God’s sight (see Galatians 5:19-21 for a list of sinful things produced by a carnal mind). Therefore, true peace can never be found through worldly things – because spiritual “death” is always at its end. Romans 6:23 says the “wages of sin is death.” This is eternal spiritual death in Hell (the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, Revelation 21:8)! True peace cannot be experienced as long as this is what awaits you for all eternity!

In contrast, Paul says that “to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” To be spiritually minded results in living your life focused on God’s ways and doing the things God wants you to do. This results in everlasting spiritual life with God in Heaven! Romans 6:23 continues, “...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Earlier in Romans 8, Paul said, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (verse 1). No condemnation in Christ Jesus! Instead, there is eternal life in Heaven for the one who lives according to God’s ways. This is what produces true peace!

Now, while the “quality” of the peace which originates from worldly things is temporary and fleeting, the quality of the peace which originates with God is beyond description – and it is eternal in nature! It is based upon a God who is eternal and a God who has promised “an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven” for the Christian (1 Peter 1:3-9). Therefore, the peace that comes from God can only be described as surpassing all understanding – in Philippians 4:7. It is truly a peace which cannot be properly expressed by any words we have in the English language. The only way to know this peace is to know God – and to experience it for yourself!

## ***What Comes From Having Peace With God?***

---

You can have and you can experience this peace for yourself! We’ll talk about how to experience this peace in a few moments. For now, take a few moments to consider what results when you have the peace which comes from God.

As we prepare to think about these things, Romans 5:1-4 will prove to be particularly helpful to us: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in

tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

## **Access to the grace of God**

When you put all of your trust in God and obey His will, you access all of God’s loving kindness. God, through His marvelous grace, has made it possible for you to be saved. Titus 2:11 says, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”

As we will see later in this study, we do not deserve to be saved eternally. We have all sinned and fallen short of His glory (Romans 3:23). Therefore, we deserve the “wages” of our sin, which is eternal death in Hell fire (Romans 6:23). However, the “gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

In Jesus Christ, we are no longer enemies of God who are fighting against God. Rather, we are friends of God who are attempting to do His will! Therefore, God extends His loving kindness and favor to us – which results in the salvation of our souls! This peace with God, then, results in an eternal home with God in Heaven (a place that is free from pain, evil, suffering, death, etc.).

## **Confident assurance**

Because we have access into the grace of God, the peace of God produces a confident assurance as to where we will spend eternity. Those who are Christians (as long as they are living according to God’s instructions) should not doubt whether God will save them on the Day of Judgment! To doubt steals your peace!

God does not lie to you about His promise of salvation. For, God “cannot lie” (Titus 1:2). Hebrews 6:18 says that it is “impossible for God to lie.” He has told you what He wants from you during your earthly life in order to be at peace with Him. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that God’s inspired word gives us everything we need to know in order to do the good things God wants us to be doing!

Therefore, as long as you are living your life according to these instructions, you can have full assurance that your eternal home will be in Heaven!

Paul had this kind of full assurance when he wrote 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (near the end of his physical life): “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

This confidence is why Paul and Peter both pointed to the coming of Jesus Christ as a comforting thing and something to be greatly anticipated by those who are Christians! When Paul wrote to Christians about the coming of Jesus Christ, he taught them to “comfort one another with these words” (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11). Furthermore, when Peter wrote to assure Christians that the Day of the Lord would definitely come, he exhorted them to conduct their lives in the way that pleases the Lord and to be “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God” because Christians should greatly anticipate the time when this world ends and they can live with God in Heaven (see 2 Peter 3:10-14)!

Because of Paul’s confident assurance in God and God’s promises, he was willing to endure any hardship that would be involved in following Christ: “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12). This confident assurance that was produced from having peace with God is what allowed Paul to endure everything that he did endure for the cause of Jesus Christ!

## **Joy**

Having peace with God produces joy. Again, Romans 5:2 says that we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Then, verse 3 says that “we also glory in tribulations.” Therefore, true happiness only comes when you have peace with God!

Consider Paul’s great joy as a Christian (who experienced peace with God) in Philippians 4:4: “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say,

rejoice!” Paul knew the great joy that came from having peace with God, having access into God’s grace, and having confident assurance in the promises of God. In fact, this is the only way you can truly be happy in your life! All other sources of happiness will disappoint because they are only temporary!

Particularly note the quality of this joy is much like the quality of having peace with God. This joy is not temporary and dependent upon earthly circumstances. Instead, this joy is eternal and exists even when earthly circumstances are less than desirable. For instance, as Paul wrote the words in Philippians 4:4, he was in prison – being persecuted as a Christian! Yet, he still had joy! Why? Because he had peace with God!

Therefore, notice what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

You can read 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 to gain a greater understanding of the types of persecution Paul had been experiencing during the course of his lifetime. However, Paul says that his suffering was “light affliction” because he had the confident assurance of the eternal blessings God would give to him! He knew that his earthly hardships were only temporary – and that something much greater than he could have imagined was waiting for him when his life was over!

Therefore, Paul wrote in Romans 5:3 that “we also glory in tribulations.” James expresses the same idea whenever he says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2-3). When you have peace with God, you know that everything will work out for good (spiritually speaking). Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His

purpose.” Even though physical circumstances will not always be what you would like them to be, if you have peace with God, you can find joy in any and every circumstance in this life! And, this is not a superficial joy; but, a joy that is rooted in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7)!

## **Peace with self**

There is a lot of inner turmoil that we experience in this life – a lot of unrest within ourselves. At least, there is whenever we do not rely on the peace of God! Whenever we do not rely on the peace that comes from God, we are left to deal with all sorts of personal problems that we will never solve by ourselves! We are left to deal with anxieties/worries about physical things. We are left to deal with situations outside of our control. We are left to wrestle with wounds from the past. We are left to grieve over past failures.

However, whenever we have peace with God, we can bring all of these things before the throne of God and cast them all upon Him! Our past sins can be forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ – and we never will have to deal with the spiritual consequences of those things again! In Philippians 3, Paul describes his former life in Judaism as a persecutor of Christians. He had made many errors in his life and had rejected Jesus Christ. However, Paul found mercy/pardon from his past sins through Jesus Christ. Therefore he said, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14).

Not only can the spiritual consequences of past sins be put behind you, but, every situation you attempt to navigate in your life can be given to Jesus Christ! His peace can rule in your heart in every circumstance. As a child of God, you have the peace of knowing that God cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 says, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus describes how that you do not have to worry about the things of this life (which will steal your peace from you). Instead, Jesus says that you must simply “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33)! The “these things” Jesus refers to in this text are the physical necessities of life! Throughout this passage, Jesus demonstrates that God will provide the necessities of life for those who are seeking Him first! Therefore, do not worry about physical things that will rob you of your peace!

In fact, we are told (as Christians) to bring every care and anxiety we may have and lay it before the throne of God – and trust God to handle it properly! Doing this will produce the peace we are studying about! Notice Philippians 4:6-7 again, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Colossians 3:15 says, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” With this peace ruling in your heart, you will not have to worry, you find redemption for past failures, you will find comfort in sorrow, and you can be encouraged and strengthened in every situation you endure!

## **Peace with others**

When you have peace with God, you also will be pursuing peace with others (because it is the will of God). Now, permit me to make a clear distinction in this point. You can be at peace with others; however, others may not be at peace with you!

For instance, Jesus said, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household’” (Matthew 10:34-36). The gospel of Jesus Christ will make people our enemies – because they will not be willing to accept and obey its message. This lack of peace, Jesus said, would even happen within one’s own family! Furthermore, Jesus told His disciples

that the world would hate them just as the world hated Him – because the world loves its own evil ways and does not want to follow God’s way of truth (John 15:18-21).

So, the world, upon rejecting the message of the gospel, will not always desire to live peaceably with those who are Christians. Other passages make it clear that the Christian should *expect* to experience the world’s hated (Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12). However, this lack of peace is *not* because of the Christian. Instead, it is because of the ones who have rejected God’s message of salvation!

The Christian’s responsibility is identified in Romans 12:17-21: “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

The Christian must be a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9). Hebrews 12:14 says, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” As much as we can control, we must be pursuing peace with everyone! The only stipulation is that we are never authorized to compromise the teachings of God’s word in order to be at “peace” with others. Short of that, though, we are to do everything in our power to make for peace with others.

Therefore, the Scriptures give instructions concerning how to conduct yourself in ways that love all men (even your enemies), do good to all as you have opportunity, seek reconciliation with those you have offended, correct those who have sinned, forgive those who seek such, treat others how you would want to be treated, do not avenge yourself, treat others as being more significant than yourself, etc. If you will follow the Scriptures teachings on how to conduct yourself toward others, you will be doing everything within your power to be at peace with others. Any peace that would not exist would be



the result of their sinful activity – not your own sinful activity!

## ***How To Experience True Peace***

---

To experience the kind of true peace we have been studying hinges upon whether or not you are at peace with God! Peace with God is the most significant element of true peace! But, notice that “peace with God” only results whenever you have been justified from your sins. Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### **Sin makes you the enemy of God**

God’s nature is such that He is entirely holy. 1 John 1:5 says that He is “light and in Him is no darkness at all.” Therefore, whenever you violate the law given by this holy God, you commit sin – and separate yourself from Him! Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”

Ephesians 2:1 says that you were “dead in trespasses and sins.” This was a spiritual death which resulted from your separation from God (the Giver of physical and spiritual life). Therefore, to make yourself a “friend” to the sinful ways of the world is to make yourself “an enemy of God” (James 4:4). Remember, a mind that is focused on physical things is hostility to God and cannot please Him (Romans 8:5-8).

Ultimately, living in your sins will result in experiencing the vengeance of the Almighty God! 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says that those who do not know God and those who do not “obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” will experience the vengeance of God and will “be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” whenever Jesus Christ returns. Therefore, as long as an individual does not

have peace with God – he/she cannot have true peace (because he/she is fighting against the Almighty God and will experience the consequences of his/her sin)!

### **Jesus took away all the barriers**

If you have chosen to sin and the “wages” of your sin is spiritual death (Romans 6:23), how then can you ever find peace with God and enjoy the peace that comes from God? The answer is through the Prince of Peace – Jesus Christ. Isaiah 9:6-7 foretold that Jesus Christ would be the “Prince of Peace.” You should also recall how the angels proclaimed peace on earth after Jesus had been born (Luke 2:14).

Ephesians 2 explains how Jesus Christ has taken away all the barriers between us and having peace with God! Though we were all dead in our trespasses and sins, God “who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” (Ephesians 2:4-5). Therefore, even those who were once without hope and without God could be “brought near by the blood of Christ” which He shed on the cross for our sins (Ephesians 2:11-13). So, Ephesians 2:14 says that Jesus Christ is “our peace.” He is the one through whom all people can have access to the grace of God and be reconciled to God!

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” Jesus Christ, according to John 14:6, is “the way, the truth, and the life” – and no one can come to the Father except through Him!

### **God requires obedience**

God provides this Way (Jesus Christ) for those who had been dead in their sins to be reconciled to Him and have peace with Him. However, He also requires some things of us in order to be saved – and access His gift of salvation! Therefore, we need to consider what God requires in order that we might have peace with God and access to His grace.

You recall that Romans 5:1 said that we are “justified by faith” and have peace with God. So, we must put our trust entirely in God for salvation, recognizing that we cannot save ourselves by our own merit once we have sinned. However, this is not “faith only.” James 2:24 says that we are “justified by works, and not by faith only.” James also says that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). Instead, the kind of faith that God requires is an active, obedient faith. This is the only faith that demonstrates our complete trust and dependence upon God!

In order to be reconciled to God and have peace with God, therefore, you must be obedient to God’s commandments (i.e. His plan of salvation). He has said (1) you must hear His word. Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Acts 18:8 demonstrates that individuals heard God’s word before they could believe and obey it. (2) You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). As we have seen, God does not tell you to stop at this point. Rather, you must put your faith into action and be obedient to Him (see also Matthew 7:21-23)! (3) You must repent of your sins. Acts 17:30 says that God “now commands all men everywhere to repent.” To repent is to turn away from your sinful way of living and turn to God (to live for Him). (4) You must confess Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” An example of this confession is seen in Acts 8:37, when the man of Ethiopia confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (5) You must be baptized. Acts 2:38 demonstrates that baptism is required in order to be reconciled to God: “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” According to God’s word, this baptism is only accomplished by an immersion in water (see Romans 6:3-4 and Acts 8:38-39).

It is at this point that you are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and are added to Christ’s church (see Acts 2:37-47). Therefore, just like others who obeyed God’s plan of salvation, you can go on your way rejoicing, having believed in God (see Acts 8:38-39 and Acts 16:31-34)! However, God *does* require that you remain faithful to Him throughout your lifetime in order to please Him and stay in His favor (see Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

As a Christian, everything you do in your life must be controlled by God! You recall that Colossians 3:15 says, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” Then, notice what is said in Colossians 3:17: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Everything you do must be done in the name of Jesus Christ (by His authority). If we allow God to control our lives in this way, one of the “fruits” which will be produced will be peace (see Galatians 5:22-24 and Galatians 6:16)!

## Conclusion

---

Have you found true peace? The peace of God that comes from having peace with God is the only true kind of peace! This peace (if we allow it to rule in our hearts) will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This peace surpasses all understanding! Romans 8:31 asks, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” However, the only way to experience this peace is if you will be obedient to God!

Unfortunately, as we saw earlier in this lesson, many will settle for other forms of “peace” that are based upon earthly things or upon false promises. So, please take a moment to evaluate whether you have **true peace** or a **false sense of peace**. As you do this, consider Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish men in Matthew 7:24-27: “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the

rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Many people today are building houses of sand. They have lives that may appear to be good and peaceful (perhaps even religious). They may believe that they are protected from destruction. However, their "peace" is built upon the wrong foundation! Make sure that your peace is true peace that comes from the firm foundation of Jesus Christ – by hearing and obeying God's word!

## ***Study Questions***

---

What is "peace"?

Where is true peace found?

### **1. The Quality Of Peace**

What is the quality of peace based on earthly things?

What is the quality of peace based on God?

### **2. What Comes From Having Peace With God?**

Explain how peace with God and access into God's grace are connected.

Explain how peace with God and confident assurance are connected.

Explain how peace with God and joy are connected.

Explain how peace with God and peace with self are connected.

Explain how peace with God and peace with others are connected.

### **3. How To Experience True Peace**

What is sin – and how does it affect your relationship with God?

How does Jesus give you the opportunity to have peace?

Does God require anything of you in order to experience true peace? If so, what is it?

**\*Have you found true peace?**