



December 10, 2023

**Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV**

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. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**Luke 2:14 NIV**

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace to those on whom his favor rests.**”

**Is lasting peace even possible?**

In the bible there are two words that are used in the Old Testament and the New Testament to teach us what Godly peace is all about.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word is known as **Shalom** which means wholeness, completeness, fullness of peace.

In the New Testament the Greek word is **Eirene** which means Peace, Harmony, Tranquility.

“Peace isn't found in the absence of problems. True peace is found in the presence of God”. - Craig Groeschel

**The battle for peace always begins in our minds.**

**Isaiah 26:3 NIV**

You will keep in perfect peace **those whose minds are steadfast**, because they trust in you.

No matter what we believe, we were never promised a trouble-free life. We were told by Jesus himself that in this world he will go through trouble, but to take heart because he has overcome the world. In other words, he is with us no matter what we go through. So, we can focus on the troubles, or we can focus on the one that wants to help us go through our troubles.

What's your mind fixed on? What we fix our attention on, what consumes our minds is what is giving us peace or taking away our peace that God wants us to have.

**Refocus our minds and hearts on who brings real peace.**

**Isaiah 26:3 NLT**

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose **thoughts are fixed on you!**

So, we are reminded to fix our focus. That way no matter what happens, no matter what we face, we know we have a God that cares for us no matter what we might go through, and it's our trust in him that gives us the strength and peace to get through just about anything that comes our way. Here are some passages that will help us stay focused on God on this holiday season.

**Here are the promises of peace that God wants you to remember today.**

**Philippians 4:6-7 NIV**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:8 NLT**

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

**John 14:27 NIV**

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.** I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**John 16:33 NIV**

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

**2 Thessalonians 3:16 NIV**

Now **may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times** in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

**John 14:27 NIV**

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.** I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**Colossians 3:15 NASB1995**

And **let the peace of Christ** rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.



**Experiencing Today's Message:**

What is stealing your peace this Christmas season?

Which one of these scriptures helps you remember God's peace in your life?

How can you focus your mind and heart on God's peace?