

God's Peace Plan

(Relationships in Flight, part 3)

Pastor Bob Johnson, October 28th, 2018

The Potential For Peace: (Galatians 5:14-26)

Peace with ... (Rom 5:1, Col 1:20, 1 Jn 5:11-13)

Peace of ... (Jn 14:27, John 16:33, Col 3:15)

Peace with ... (Romans 12:18, Acts 24:16)

The Problems Limiting Peace:

Obstacles:	Coping Strategies:	Root Issues:

The Plan For More Peace: (A Spiritual F.I.X.) (Philippians 4:6-9)

Filter the _____ (v8)
(2 Corinthians 10:5)

Investigate for _____ (v9)
(Romans 8:6)

Xout the _____ (v6-7)
(Matthew 11:28-30)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

For the next four weeks, we'll be digging deeper into our study of the Fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23. As we study these character qualities God desires to develop in our lives as Christ followers, let's prayerfully seek God's wisdom in how God can strengthen the relationships in our lives.

Getting Started:

How are you???? What has happened in your life since we last met (good or not so good) that we can rejoice with you or pray with you about?

In John 14:27, Jesus told his early followers that the peace he gives is not like the peace world gives. What are some ways the peace the world gives is different from the peace God gives? Why do so many 'peace treaties' in this world not last?

Bob shared that one of the obstacles to experience peace is all the noise that surrounds us. We all need some occasional quiet space. Where and when do you try to lower the volume of is world and enjoy some peace and quiet?

Bob mentioned the possibility of having "peace with God" and having the "peace of God". What is the difference between these two? Is it possible to have "peace wth God" and not have the "peace of God" in a certain situation? How so?

In Colossians 3:15, the Apostle Paul encourages us to 'let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts'. God desires to give us confirmation or hesitation when we ask for His discernment regarding a pending decision. Can you think of a time when you asked for God's discernment and God either gave peace or unrest about something you were considering? How has the Bible helped provide direction in your life (peace or unrest) when you were trying to discern God's will?

Read Romans 12:18. Living peaceably with everyone is something we desire but is not always possible. What have you learned that has helped you do your part to live peaceably with others?

Bob mentioned three root issues that limit peace in our lives: fear, anger and guilt. As a Christ follower, how have you seen God help set you free from one or more of these?

Digging Deeper:

1. Worry is one of the obstacles that limit peace in our lives. Read the following verses and share what insights we can learn from them regarding worry and anxiety:

Matthew 11:28-30

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Psalms 55:22

Proverbs 12:25

1 Peter 5:6-8

Psalms 23:4

Hebrews 13:5-6

Psalms 56:3

Matthew 6:25-34

Romans 8:38-39

2. The last obstacle that Bob mentioned to more peace in our lives is ourselves. In Romans, Paul shared honestly about the struggles inside him. Read Romans 7:18 - Romans 8:2. What insights do you see from this passage regarding our sin nature and the hope we have as Christ followers?

3. Re-read Philippians 4:4-9 which includes the passage that Bob taught from last Sunday. Are there any further insights that you see regarding the peace God desires for us?

Looking Ahead: (Personal Application)

This last section is based on passages like the one below:

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out.

Before we wrap up, let's share some prayer requests and pray for each other.

As we learn and apply His truths to our lives, may we experience more of the peace that is available to us.

