



## September 25 & 26: Uncomfortable Peace

### Series Overview

We are in this world to make an impact and love others. If we are going to truly impact our world, we must display the life of Christ in our own lives. *Galatians 5:22-23* says, <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* This kind of life will make a difference in our world and in the lives of the people around us.



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### Sermon Highlights

Before we can talk about the kind of peace that God can give, we have to discuss what peace is not:

- **It is not self-help.**
- **It is not self-medication.**
- **It is not peaceful.**

Peace does not mean there won't be pressure. God's peace does not always fix our problems. Jesus does not promise that we'll be comfortable or peaceful. He promises trouble and peace.

How do you find peace when the pressure is on?

#### 1. **It's about God's presence.**

*John 14:18, I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

#### 2. **It's about God's power.**

*John 14:16-17, <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—<sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

#### 3. **It's about God's perspective.**

*John 14:26, But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

Things may be a mess at home or at work or in your finances, but God can give you hope, even in your hopeless situation.

Will you surrender your pressure to God? God does His best work when the pressure is on!

#### On peace...

- If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. –Mother Teresa
- *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.* –John 16:33
- Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves. –William Hazlitt



### Take it home ... Practical Applications

Take some time to consider what things in your life keep you from having the peace of God. In a time of prayer and reflection, give those things to God and ask Him to bring His peace to the stressful areas of your life that seem beyond hope.



## Take it to the source ... Bible Study

**Introductory question:** Where is your favorite peaceful place? What about it makes it peaceful for you?

**Read *John 14:18, 27* and *John 16:7*.**

1. Jesus says that He will not leave us so that we feel like orphans. Do you ever feel alone as you face the challenges of your life? How likely are you to turn to God as the primary source for your peace in difficult times? Why?
2. Do you go through life aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in daily situations? What are some ways that God makes His presence known to you?
3. In what ways can the presence of God calm your heart and take away your fear? What are some practical things you can do to have a greater sense of the presence of God in your day to day life?
4. How do you relate to the idea of God as your heavenly Father? Does knowing that He is there in every situation bring you a sense of peace?
5. Are there things in your life that make it difficult to trust God? What steps can you take to trust God in every aspect of your life?

**Read *1 Peter 5:7* and *Philippians 4:6-7*.**

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you were especially aware that God cares for you? What things contributed to your sense of His love for you?
2. When are you most likely to turn to God with your anxieties and stresses? What is usually the state of your spiritual condition in those times?
3. How likely are you to turn to God first when you face a time of anxiety or a stressful situation? Is prayer the first thing you do when your life gets stressful? Why or why not?
4. How does presenting your requests to God lead to a sense of peace? Is there a real connection between prayer and peace in your own life? How so?
5. What do you need to do to develop a prayer life that gives God room to bring His peace into the difficult situations of your life?

**Read *John 14:26*, *Isaiah 48:17-18* and *Philippians 2:4*.**

1. How easy is it for you to step back and see difficult situations from God's perspective? What are some things that can help you have a more godly outlook?
2. How often do you take time to ask God for His perspective on life? Once a day? Once a week? Why is it important to make the effort to see this world and your part in it as God does?
3. How can knowing and obeying God's commands contribute to a life of peace? What part does guilt often play in disturbing a person's peace? Why?
4. Is there any area of your life where knowing the reality of God's forgiveness will bring you a greater sense of peace? What steps do you need to take so you can have the peace of God that passes all understanding?



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*All Bible references are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.*

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