

Search for Peace

I Peter 3:11

“Let him turn away from wickedness and shun it and let him do right. Let him search for peace (harmony; undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts) and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]”

There is a lot of wisdom in this verse.

“Let him turn away from wickedness and shun it”.

In these days and times, we have countless opportunities to observe wickedness.

It is at our fingertips on our phones, computers, televisions, gaming systems, etc.

But this verse tells us to turn away from it.

Don't let it in.

Don't let our minds see it.

Don't let our hearts have to deal with it.

Instead, search for peace.

I love the Amplified Bible's definition of peace here, "*(harmony, undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts)*".

Seek harmony.

Don't let fears disturb us.

Don't let ourselves be run around by our feelings and emotions.

And don't do things that are in conflict with our moral compass.

Peter says to not only seek peace, but he says seek it eagerly.

Pursue peace with God.

Pursue peace with others.

Pursue peace with ourselves.

Just like any other dream or desire we have that we pursue with full force and conviction, we are to pursue peace.

Today I choose to seek peace over conflict, controversy, fear, and emotions, and pray that God will rest His peace upon me.

May you find that as you seek peace you will find it as God will certainly grant you the peace that you ask for.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for showing me the value of peace. Thank You for continuing to remind me that Your peace and Your presence are all that I need. You have been so gracious to me. You continue to wrap me up in a blanket of peace as the world around me feeds on chaos. You continue to shower me with Your mercy. You continue to show me how much You love me no matter how short I come to perfection. Though I miss the mark, You love me anyway. I am never out of Your care. I cannot run from You, Lord. Thank You, Lord, for never letting go of me. Thank You for choosing me to know You. Help me stay in Your peace today as the cares of this world compass about me. Help me look to You and not the world, Father. Keep my eyes on You. Help me bless another today. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: My peace is upon you, My child.

Response: Thank You, most gracious and loving God.

Cast Your Cares on Him

I Peter 5:6-7

“Therefore, humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you,”

“Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.”

The Bible talks a lot about being humble.

There are different places where the Bible speaks against being proud.

Isaiah 2:12 says, *“The Lord Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled).”*

However, this scripture talks about being humble in a different way – not humility verses pride.

It talks about being humble under the, *“mighty hand of God”*.

What does that mean?

Our second verse gives us some clues.

“Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.”

When we get wrought up by the circumstances that surround us, we are trying to take control those circumstances.

It's impossible.

It's like roping a tornado.

We have to let God take care of us and our circumstances.

We have to give Him our worries.

Not sometimes, but at all times.

This verse says, once and for all.

It's a pretty constant process though.

With all the uncertainties that are in our world today we can become very unsure and sit in unrest.

I find that as I try and take control back, I need to surrender and keep surrendering.

There is nothing that I can control about the world we live in.

I can only control me.

And so, I pray that God will give me the strength to make good decisions and live according to His will.

Today I choose to relinquish control and give God all my cares, concerns, anxieties, and circumstances and allow Him to work in all areas of my life.

May you find that as you give Him the reins of your life and let Him have your fears, concerns, and anxieties that He calms the storms around you.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for all You do for me and all You are. Thank You for working in every circumstance of my life. Thank You for allowing me to give you my fears, anxieties, cares, failures, and mishaps. Thank You for caring enough about me to want to take all these worries from me. Thank You for righting my wrongs, and for working out everything for my good. Your constant care of me is perfect. I ask You to calm the raging storm around me and help me know that You have a perfect plan for me and the family You have given me. Keep my eyes on You as the world seems to spin out of control. Help me look to the heavens instead of the chaos that whirls around me. May Your perfect peace rest on me this day. May I sit in Your presence and be made whole in this moment. Thank You, Father, for all You do for me and all that You are. Undeserving of Your love and attention, I cannot escape it. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM with you, My child, and have a plan for you even as these days look uncertain. Keep your eyes on Me.

Response: Help me look to You for all that I need and desire, Father.

He Will Complete You

I Peter 5:10

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace [Who imparts all blessing and favor], Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen, and settle you.”

There is hardly anything that I wish for more than to be what I am meant to be.

I have lived over half of my life now, and fully desire to be what God wants me to be.

My agendas are done.

My dreams of the past are exactly that – the past.

The only thing I long for is to be completely given to the Lord’s will.

I love that this verse says that God calls us to be His own.

Even if everyone in the world deserts us God wants us to be His.

How wonderful it is that we can count on Him.

In this verse, Peter tells us that God completes us.

He makes us whole.

He makes us what we are supposed to be.

He strengthens us.

And He settles us.

We are living through some very unsettling days.

We can look to God to settle us.

When the world gets too loud, we can slip away into His presence and be quieted.

When I spend time with Him, He stills my soul.

He fills me with love.

He rests His peace upon me.

Today I choose to be completed by my Maker and be securely fastened to Him so that He may strengthen me and settle my spirit.

May you find that as you spend time with Him that He completes you, grounds you, strengthens you, and settles your spirit.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for caring for me so deeply that You desire me to be all that You have for me to be. You constantly work with me and work on me to complete me. You strengthen me and settle my spirit so that I can worship You. You are great and mighty and are greatly to be praised! You are the God of the universe and God of my heart. I love You, Father, and put all my faith and trust in You. You quiet the noise around me and rest Your peace upon me. May Your perfect will be done in my life. Help me not get in the way of Your plan, Lord. Help me do all that You have for me to do here on this earth. Help me love Your people, Father. Help me serve with joy. Soften my heart and put Your compassion in me so that I can do what You ask me to do. Help me see others as You see them. Even though these days and times require me to pull in, help me serve where I am able. Show me what You desire from me, Lord. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I love you, My child, and will continue to complete the work I have started in you so that you may serve My people.

Response: Help me do all that You desire me to do, Lord.

The Lord is My Shepherd

Psalm 23:1-2

"The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack."

"He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters."

As these days are unsettling, I rest in the words of the twenty-third psalm.

There were two things that came to mind when I read verse two.

One was the naps my parents required that we girls take.

We didn't want to take naps.

We wanted to stay up and have fun and play.

It was always a chore to get us to rest.

Years later, I wonder if God tires of making us slow down and rest.

I no longer wish to try and outrun Him.

My desire is to obey Him as, *"He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures"*.

The other thing that came to mind as I was reading the second verse was the saying, 'You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink'.

Although God leads us to peace and rest, we have the choice to receive it or reject it.

Just reading, *"He leads me beside the still and restful waters"* quiets my soul.

How I desire those, *"still and restful waters"*.

It seems that as I grow older and gain some Wisdom, the Bible makes more sense to me.

I desire more of what God, alone, has to offer.

I desire more of Him.

Today I choose to accept and follow God as my Shepherd and lie down in the green pastures and restful waters that He provides for me.

May you find that the Lord is ready to lead you and guide you to green pastures and restful waters as you allow Him to be your Shepherd.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for all You do for me and all that You are. Thank You for Your constant presence in my life. Thank You for watching over me and the family You have given me. Forgive me for going my own way. Forgive me for not letting You lead and guide me as You desire. Help me to allow You to lead me, Lord. Help me be humble and allow You to take me where You want me to go. Help me allow You to Shepherd me and bring me to the best pastures and most peaceful places. Only You truly know my needs and how to meet them. Help me follow You and heed Your voice. Help me hear Your whispers and be obedient to Your directions. Keep me at Your feet, Lord. Keep me seeking You above all else. Calm my fears and quiet my anxious mind. Replace all of that with Your perfect peace. Help me serve others with a joyful heart. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM with you to lead you into all the wonderful places I have for you and keep you safe, My child.

Response: May I be obedient to Your leading, most gracious and mighty God.

I AM with You

Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age.”

These were Jesus’ very last words that were recorded in the book of Matthew.

So, I pay attention.

What struck me as I read was, *“I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age.”*

Jesus said He is with us until and through the last day.

Not just with us, but with us *“perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion”*.

He is with us every moment of every day.

He is with us this second.

And He will not leave us for a second.

He'll be with us a few minutes from now, a few hours from now, as we go to bed, as we rise tomorrow and all the moments and days after that.

He said He will be with us on every occasion.

Good or bad, He is with us.

No one ever really dreamt of the current days and times.

We didn't really know the magnitude of what was to come.

We still don't.

Not today, and probably not tomorrow.

At some point, we will look back and be able to see more clearly.

For now, we have the perspective that we have as of today – right now.

Tomorrow that will change.

And in another day, it will change again.

But Jesus said He would be with us.

I take comfort in knowing that He knows.

I take comfort in knowing He will be with me every moment of every day that I am here on this earth.

He has no intention of leaving me – ever.

Today I am thankful that the Lord of Lords and King of Kings is with me and will never leave my side.

May you take comfort in knowing that the Great I AM is at your side and will be at your side every moment of every day and on every occasion.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for all You do for me and all that You are. Thank You that You sent Your Son to live and die for me so that I may be covered by His blood. Thank You that He is beside me today as He said He would be. I do not deserve Your or His presence in my life, but You offer it freely, without reserve, and wait for me to call upon You for all that I need. As this day begins, I give to You all my anxious thoughts and fears and ask You to cover me with Your peace. I love You, Father, and pray that You keep me focused on You instead of the uncertainty that surrounds me. Help me sit at Your feet and soak up Your love, grace, and mercy until it overflows in my heart. Then let me offer help to someone in need. Help me be Your hands and Your heart to someone this day. Show me who needs You, Lord. Help me love with Your love. Help me serve with compassion and be strong enough to allow You to work through me. Strengthen me in every way, Lord. Help me bless someone today. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM with you, My child, and My peace is upon you as I strengthen you so that you may help those in need.

Response: Thank You, most gracious and loving Father.

One Thing I Ask For

Psalm 27:4

“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple.”

There is no more wonderful place to be than in the presence of God.

King David writes that he asked for, sought after, and required that he may be in God’s presence every single day of his life.

He found beauty there.

He would meditate on all the wonderful things of God.

He would ask and inquire about the ways of the Lord.

When I go through my day and don’t take the time to spend with Almighty God, the day is incomplete and meaningless.

I rob myself of the true beauty of sitting with Him.

I lack the peace I seek.

Because God is my Rock.

He is my strength.

He is my peace.

As these days grow more uncertain every day, He is steady.

God never changes.

His plan never changes.

I just need to adapt to it.

And ask myself, what is He asking of me?

Spending time with Him allows me to hear Him.

When I get into His flow, grace is poured over me.

Circumstances change rapidly.

He moves and I must move with Him.

Then I find beauty, majesty, miracles, wonder, strength, and peace.

His mercy, grace, and love overflows.

Today I choose to sit in God's presence above all else and find beauty in Him and His ways.

May you find that as you spend time with God that you will be filled to the brim with His love.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for spending time with me. Thank You for always being ready to fill my heart and soul. May Your presence be upon me and Your grace carry me this day. Thank You for showing me the beauty of You and Your love. Thank You for loving me beyond my comprehension. Help me receive Your love today, Father. Help me bask in Your presence. Don't let the cares of this world cloud or dampen my ability to sit with You and receive all that You have to give to me, Your child. Just as a child receives wonderful gifts from their parents, help me receive from You. I ask that You strengthen me to meet the challenges of this day. Ready me for Your service, Lord. Help me help others and serve with joy. Don't let me miss anyone

that needs Your tender care. Thank You for being my Rock and my strength. May Your perfect will be done, Lord. Guide my every step, thought, and deed as I walk through this day. May Your protection be upon me, the family You have given me, and all the families in this blessed nation and around the world. May we all look to You and be caught up in Your presence today. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM watching over you and all people and desire to spend time with you, My child.

Response: Thank You, Almighty God and Father.

Be Careful What You Hear

Mark 4:24

“And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing, The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you – and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.”

Jesus’ words spoken over two thousand years ago are so very appropriate in today’s world.

“Be careful what you are hearing”.

We need to be careful here.

What are we listening to?

And how much time are we giving it?

Jesus said, “The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you”.

Our thoughts are so powerful.

As my fears seem to tumble out of control during various times of the day, I need to ask myself – what am I listening to or thinking about right now?

I am the only one who can control my thoughts.

No one else can tell me what to think.

I am fully responsible.

But how can I change them when everything seems so out of control?

I can change the way I spend my time.

I logically understand that the peaceful moments I have during these very uncertain times are the ones I spend with God.

So, I must intentionally spend more time with Him.

I must intentionally spend more time in the Word.

I must intentionally spend more time in prayer.

Today I choose to spend time with the Lord, His Son, His Holy Spirit, and find peace, solace, and strength in them.

May you find that you are able to turn your mind and thoughts to the Great Almighty, and that He will lead you to a place of peace and strength.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for Your perfect Word in due season. You never disappoint. You always show me exactly what I need to see at exactly the moment I need to see it. You are my Rock. You are my Strength. You are my everything that I need today and every day. May You fill my heart with joy. May you fill my soul with peace. Help me meditate on You all day long. Replace my fear with Your wisdom, Lord, and help me know all is according to Your plan. Keep my thoughts on You, Father. Keep my eyes on You. Drown out the noise of this world, and help me praise You, Lord. You are great and greatly to be praised! You, and only You, are Creator and Designer of this universe. May Your will be done. Lead and guide me, Lord. Quiet my mind and lead me to the still waters. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM with you, My child, to watch over and protect you – simply follow Me.

Response: Keep me seeking You and help me follow You, Lord.

His Angels Watch Over You

Psalm 91:10-11

“There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.”

“For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].”

I came upon this scripture today and was so thankful that God, once again, led me to the verses I needed to read.

God is the Almighty God.

He is the omniscient God.

He is Creator of all things.

We cannot escape Him and His love for us because He made us.

He made each and every one of us for His purpose.

And He promises to take care of us.

Even as our days are filled with fact finding which leads to fear, God has provided His response to it all.

“There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.”

“For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].”

I cannot read these verses enough today.

They are my assurance that God, indeed, is taking care of me and the family He has given me.

He sends His angels to watch over me.

I can walk through this day with confidence knowing that God has all my problems handled – even the ones I don’t know are coming my way.

Today I choose to rely completely on the Lord to take care of me in every way.

May you find that God is taking care of you, watching over you, and protecting you in every way.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for taking care of me and the family You have given me. Thank You for watching over us and protecting us. Thank You for sending Your angels to watch over us in a very special way. You assure me that no evil will take over and consume me for You are caring for me. Lord, I pray You strengthen my faith. Help me believe in all that You are in a more profound way today than yesterday. Replace my fears and anxious thoughts with peace. Lift me up to You when I start sinking in my own mind. Keep my thoughts on You throughout this day, Lord. May Your presence surround me and lift me to praise Your Name. You are Almighty God, Creator of the universe, and Maker of my heart. Help me love You with all of my heart, Lord. Help me serve You today and every day I am here on this planet. How I long to be sitting at Your feet. How I long to worship You in heaven. Help me do all that You have for me to do here, Father, and bring me home to You. Keep my eyes on You today. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM watching over you and your family and will deliver you from all harm.

Response: Thank You, most gracious God and Father.

I Have Chosen You

John 15:16

“You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you. [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I Am], He may give it to you.”

I am always blown away when I read scripture that says, “I have chosen you”.

I used to think that of all the choices I could make, I chose God.

I heard about God giving us free will as a child and throughout most of my adult life.

But as I read the Word more and more, it is clear that God chose me to know Him.

He didn't have to choose me, but He did.

He had a plan when He chose me to be His and planted me here exactly where I am.

He would use me for His purpose.

He uses everyone for His purpose, but this verse makes it so personal.

That's the way God is.

He is personal.

He created each of us personally.

We are all His creation.

We are all loved dearly by Him.

We are treasured.

And as I read this verse today, I am reminded that He made me, chose me, and has a purpose for my life.

And although it doesn't seem like it could get any better than that, Jesus said, "so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I Am], He may give it to you."

God desires to please me.

He desires to give me the desires of my heart.

I now ask that His desires become my desires.

As He changes my heart and fills me with His Holy Spirit, I become more and more aligned with His will.

And His promise of giving me whatever I ask is fulfilled.

Today I choose to be ever so grateful that the Lord has chosen me to know Him and has planted me exactly where He wants me to be.

May you be grateful that God has chosen you as His own, and that you are exactly where you should be according to His plan.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for choosing me to know You. Thank You for choosing me to be Yours. Thank You for planting me where I need to be and giving me gifts to be used for Your glory. Help me do all that You ask me to do. Help me follow You, Lord, even when I find it difficult to find You. Light the way so that I have a clear path to follow. Help me operate in the gifts You have given me and instill the courage I need to do what You ask. Strengthen me in every way so that I may be fully used by You. Help me hear Your whispers and obey Your commands. Thank You for the promises that Jesus gave. Thank You for the hope that You will grant me whatever I ask when I ask in Jesus' Name. May Your desires fully become my desires so that I chase after the things You want me to chase after. Help me glorify Your Name, Lord. There is nothing more wonderful than to glorify You. I praise Your Name, Lord! I worship You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I may reach others for You. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: You are Mine, My daughter, and I AM always with you.

Response: Undeservedly Yours, Lord, thank You.

A Chosen Instrument

Acts 9:13 and 15

“But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard many people tell about this man, especially how much evil and what great suffering he has brought on Your saints at Jerusalem;”

“But the Lord said to him, Go for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and Kings and the descendants of Israel;”

Has God ever asked you to do something that you didn't want to do?

You really, really didn't want to do it.

Before Paul became a soldier for Christ, he was out persecuting Christians.

I am always amazed at this story.

The Lord had to blind him to get his attention.

Paul didn't eat or drink for three days.

Some of God's saints were asked to intervene.

Ananias was a disciple in Damascus who God was going to use to change Paul into a disciple.

However, Ananias didn't want to go.

He was afraid.

He knew that Paul had been responsible for persecuting many Christians, putting them in jail, and worse.

I'm sure Ananias wouldn't want to go to jail.

He wouldn't want to be in chains.

And he didn't trust that Paul had been transformed.

However, the Lord wanted to use Paul.

He was going to fill him with His Holy Spirit.

He wanted Paul to be His missionary for the Gentiles – us.

Ananias had to get beyond his fears so that he could carry out God's mission.

I am sure it was difficult for him to go to the house that Paul was staying in, lay hands on him, heal him, and be the caveat that would grant him the gift of the Holy Spirit.

After all, Paul didn't deserve it.

He didn't deserve the grace that was being offered.

He didn't deserve the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As Ananias was obedient to God, the rest of the world would change.

We would be entitled to be grafted into the fold.

We would be given the gift of grace, forgiveness, and wholeness in God's sight.

One small, yet courageous act, by Ananias would change the world of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

As I read this story once again my heart was softened to help me be obedient to God's call.

It reminded me to be obedient to Him no matter how I feel.

Today I choose to be obedient to the Lord's call and pray for the strength to carry out His plan.

May you find encouragement in being obedient to God and the lasting effects that your action of obedience may have on all future generations.

Daily Prayer:

O Lord, my God, thank You for teaching me about obedience. Thank You for showing me that obedience to You, even when uncomfortable, can have a lasting effect on all future generations. Thank You for showing me that You will protect me as I am obedient to You. Strengthen me and grant me courage so that I am able to carry out Your will for my life. Help me do ask You ask without wavering, Lord. Help me care for others so deeply that I lose my own self-interest. May You light the path and guide me, Lord. Guide me past my own desires and lead me to You. May Your will be done, always. Help me bless someone this day. Thank You for hearing my prayer.

Answer: I AM preparing you for My use, My child.

Response: Help me be obedient to You in every way, Father.