



## 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

### Sermon: Becoming A Peacemaker

**SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS STEVERSON | 7/6/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5**

#### Day 1: Finding Peace with God

**Devotional:** Peace begins with God. In our broken world, we often feel a deep sense of unrest, a fear that something isn't right. This feeling dates back to the Garden of Eden when sin first separated humanity from our Creator. After Adam and Eve sinned, their immediate response was fear - they hid from God. That same fear continues to plague humanity today. But God's heart has always been to restore peace between Himself and us. From the moment sin entered the world, He set in motion a plan to bring us back into relationship with Him. This wasn't just a casual desire - it became heaven's mission. God values relationship with us so much that He was willing to pay the ultimate price through Jesus Christ. When we make peace with God through Christ, everything changes. The fear that has haunted humanity since Eden begins to dissolve. We no longer need to hide. We no longer face condemnation. Instead, we find ourselves welcomed as children into God's family. Today, consider where you stand with God. Have you experienced the peace that comes from reconciliation with Him? This is the foundation of all other peace in our lives. Without it, we'll continue to feel that underlying unrest no matter how peaceful our circumstances may appear.

**Bible Verse:** "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." - Romans 8:1

**Reflection Question:** How has fear affected your relationship with God, and what would it look like to fully embrace the peace He offers through Christ?

**Quote:** God is a peacemaker. Aren't you grateful? Aren't you glad that God is not just a vengeful God that wants to pour out his wrath on the unrighteousness of men? I'm thankful that when we absolutely deserve the worst that God had to offer, God was willing to give us his best.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for pursuing peace with me when I deserved your judgment. Help me to fully receive the peace you offer through Jesus Christ. Remove any fear that keeps me from experiencing complete reconciliation with you. I want to know what it means to be your child, fully at peace in your presence. Amen.

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#### Day 2: Experiencing the Peace of God

**Devotional:** Once we've made peace with God, we can begin to experience the peace of God. There's a profound difference between the two. Making peace with God resolves our spiritual standing - we're no longer enemies but family. Experiencing God's peace affects our emotional and mental state day by day. Anxiety and fear are universal human struggles. We worry about our health, our finances, our relationships, and countless other things. But God offers an alternative to this anxious existence. Through prayer and thanksgiving, we can bring our concerns to Him and receive His peace in return. This peace isn't just a temporary feeling or emotional high. It's a supernatural guard over our hearts and minds. When circumstances around us are chaotic, God's peace creates a sanctuary within us. It doesn't always make sense logically - how can we be at peace when problems remain unsolved? That's why Scripture calls it a peace that surpasses understanding. Today, instead of dwelling on your worries, try bringing them to God in prayer. Be specific about your concerns, but also intentional about expressing gratitude. Then watch how God's peace begins to replace your anxiety, not because your circumstances have necessarily changed, but because your focus has shifted from your problems to the God of peace.

**Bible Verse:** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7

**Reflection Question:** What specific anxieties are currently robbing you of peace, and how might practicing prayer with thanksgiving change your experience of those situations?

**Quote:** The peace of God will, will guard your heart and your mind. That's the reason why we can pray. And we just feel like all the cares of the world just seem to fade away in the presence of God.

**Prayer:** Lord, I confess that anxiety often overwhelms me. Today I bring my specific worries to you: [name them silently]. Thank you for listening and caring. Thank you for the good things you've already done in my life. I receive your peace that passes understanding, trusting that you are guarding my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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#### Day 3: Peace is a Person

**Devotional:** As we continue our journey toward becoming peacemakers, we discover something profound: peace is not just a concept or a feeling—it's a Person. Jesus Christ Himself is our peace. When we seek peace, we're ultimately seeking Him. In Isaiah, Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. This title isn't incidental to His character; it's central to who He is. When Jesus promised peace to His disciples, He specifically said, "My peace I give you." He wasn't offering a generic sense of calm but His very own peace—the same peace that allowed Him to sleep in a storm-tossed boat and face His crucifixion with composure. This understanding transforms how we pursue peace. Rather than merely seeking techniques to manage anxiety or resolve conflicts, we seek deeper communion with Jesus. As we abide in Him, His peace naturally flows into and through us. The peace Jesus gives differs fundamentally from what the world offers. The world's peace depends on favorable circumstances—when everything's going well, we feel peaceful. Jesus' peace remains steady regardless of external conditions. It's a peace that sustained martyrs facing death and continues to sustain believers through life's most difficult trials. Today, instead of just seeking the peace of God, seek the God of peace. Spend time in His presence. Meditate on His character. Let your relationship with the Prince of Peace become the source of tranquility in your life.

**Bible Verse:** "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." - Isaiah 9:6

**Reflection Question:** How might your approach to finding peace change if you focused more on developing your relationship with Jesus rather than just seeking peaceful feelings?

**Quote:** As much as I want the peace of God, I want the God of peace.

**Prayer:** Prince of Peace, forgive me for the times I've sought peace apart from you. I recognize that true peace is found in your presence. Draw me closer to you today. Let me know you more deeply as the God of peace, not just experience the peace of God. May your character and nature transform me from the inside out. Amen.

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#### Day 4: Creating Peace at Home

**Devotional:** As we grow in our relationship with the Prince of Peace, we naturally become agents of peace in our relationships. The most important place to practice peacemaking is in our homes. Our families deserve our best efforts at creating and maintaining peaceful environments. Peace at home doesn't happen accidentally. It requires intentional choices about what we allow into our living spaces—both physically and emotionally. The media we consume, the conversations we have, the attitudes we display all contribute to either peace or discord. As peacemakers, we must be vigilant gatekeepers, protecting our homes from influences that undermine tranquility. Creating peace also means addressing conflicts promptly and constructively. Unresolved tensions fester into bitterness. Small irritations grow into major divisions. The peacemaker doesn't ignore problems but approaches them with wisdom, patience, and love. Remember that peace isn't the absence of disagreement but the presence of right relationship. Family members will have different opinions and preferences. Peace comes not from eliminating these differences but from handling them with respect and understanding. Today, consider the atmosphere in your home. Are you actively creating conditions that foster peace? Are there specific steps you could take to increase harmony among family members? Your home should be a sanctuary of peace in a chaotic world, reflecting the character of your heavenly Father.

**Bible Verse:** "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." - Hebrews 12:14

**Reflection Question:** What is one specific change you could make this week to increase the level of peace in your home environment?

**Quote:** The greatest battle of your family is the peace of your family. The greatest battle of your home is the peace of your home. So don't help the other side of that battle by allowing things into your home that will steal the peace of that home.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, make me an instrument of your peace in my home. Show me where I've allowed discord to enter or where I've neglected to address tensions. Give me wisdom to create an atmosphere that honors you and blesses my family. Help me to be quick to forgive, slow to anger, and always ready to extend grace. Amen.

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#### Day 5: Peacemaking in a Divided World

**Devotional:** As children of God, we're called to be peacemakers in an increasingly divided world. This calling extends beyond our homes and churches to our workplaces, communities, and even our interactions with those who oppose us. Jesus acknowledged that following Him would sometimes create division. Not everyone will welcome the message of the gospel or appreciate Christian values. Yet even as He recognized this reality, Jesus never sought conflict. Even on the cross, He prayed for those who crucified Him, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." True peacemaking isn't about avoiding all conflict or compromising truth. Rather, it's about approaching every relationship with a genuine desire for reconciliation and understanding. It means listening before speaking, seeking common ground where possible, and treating others with dignity even when we disagree. God calls us to pursue peace with all people—not just those who look like us, think like us, or share our beliefs. This doesn't mean we'll always succeed. Some people will reject our peace efforts. But as peacemakers, our responsibility is to ensure that any division comes from others' choices, not from our failure to extend grace. Today, consider a difficult relationship in your life. How might you take one step toward peace? Remember that in doing so, you're reflecting the character of your heavenly Father, who went to extraordinary lengths to make peace with you.

**Bible Verse:** "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." - 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

**Reflection Question:** Is there someone in your life with whom you need to pursue peace, even if it feels difficult or uncomfortable?

**Quote:** Even when they nailed his hands and feet to that cross, he longed for their forgiveness. He said, forgive them, Father. They don't know what they're doing. They did it with ignorance and maybe animosity, but Jesus suffered it with absolute peace in his heart.

**Prayer:** God of reconciliation, thank you for making peace with me through Christ when I was still your enemy. Give me courage to be a peacemaker in difficult relationships. Help me to extend grace even when it's not returned. Where reconciliation seems impossible, grant me wisdom to know what steps I can take and peace to accept what I cannot change. May my life reflect your peacemaking heart to a divided world. Amen.

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