

Receive His Peace

Do you ever assume that having peace hinges on your life being organized and on track? The truth is this: *true peace doesn't come from your circumstances but from resting in Jesus*. Even if your life is total chaos, turn your gaze and heart toward Jesus, the ever-present wellspring of peace that "surpasses all understanding."



Write down two or three areas in your life that make you feel nervous, insecure, or unrooted. What is it about these situations that causes restlessness?

Philippians 4:7 speaks of the peace of Christ that “surpasses all understanding.” Have you ever experienced unexplainable peace, even in the midst of a great struggle? When?



Ask Jesus to give you his peace and to awaken your heart to his truth in the areas of your life that feel tumultuous. From there, turn everything over to him.

 *Jesus, be my peace —* 
today and always.





Seek Him

All too often we seek what God can give us rather than God himself. Sometimes we seek rewards from the Lord for our fidelity, expecting his good favor for loving him. At other times, frustrated by the hard road of faith or by the feeling that we're not receiving the same level of blessings that others are experiencing, we forget simply to sit in Jesus' presence and say, "Lord, I love you."

What are some things that have kept (or are keeping) you from sitting in the presence of Jesus and adoring him?



Have you ever been frustrated because those around you who do not follow God seem to be rewarded more in life than you? Have an honest conversation with God about that, and be open to listening to what he has to say.



*Jesus,
I want to seek you
above all else.
Awaken my heart
to a greater desire for you.*



BUT TO YOU WHO HEAR

*I say, love your enemies,
do good to those who hate
you, bless those who curse
you, pray for those who
mistreat you.*

—LUKE 6:27–28

Let Him Soften Your Heart

Do you find it difficult to forgive others when they have hurt and mistreated you? It's one of the most challenging acts of mercy for me to turn my resentment into forgiveness. But Jesus gives us this specific grace: *to pray for those who hate you*. With his powerful love in our hearts, we overcome our weakness and bitterness of heart to bless even those whose words and actions have cut the deepest.



Describe a specific situation in which someone deeply hurt you, making note of the feelings you experienced at the time. Write a prayer for that person, making sure to write out their name. Ask God to give you the strength and grace to pray for the person who hurt you.

Jesus specifically asks us to pray for our enemies. Who in your life do you consider to be an enemy? How can you "do good" to them and bless them?

