



#2 In the Go Tell Series  
Peace on Earth  
Forest Park Church  
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I always thought this was supposed to be the season of peace—but for many of us, it often feels like the season of pressure.

- Schedules tighten,
- expectations rise,
- emotions run high,
- and relationships—both beautiful and broken—are suddenly brought together in the same rooms.

We sing about peace on earth while navigating family tension, unresolved conflict, personality clashes, financial stress, and emotional fatigue. And somewhere in the middle of all that, we're tempted to think that "Christmas peace" is just a fleeting feeling we chase with decorations, music, food, and traditions.

But the peace announced by the angels in Luke 2 was never meant to be sentimental or seasonal. It was a declaration that **the world had changed because a Savior had come.**

- Peace is not a mood—it is a kingdom reality.
- It starts with peace between God and us, and then reshapes how we treat the people around us.
- In a fractured world and in fractured relationships, Jesus didn't just come to give us warm feelings—**He came to change our story, our hearts, and our posture toward others.**
- And that's the peace we're called not just to receive, but to live and to give.

# I. Peace on Earth

## Peace With God Becomes Peace in Us

### Luke 2:13–14

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

It's easy to misunderstand this announcement:

The angels didn't announce peace because the world was about to become calm.

- Rome was still oppressive.
- Israel was still occupied.
- Brokenness, injustice, and suffering were still everywhere.

Yet heaven declared *peace*—because something far greater than calm circumstances had arrived.

### A. Real Peace Comes from God

The angels announce peace because **reconciliation has arrived**.

Peace isn't first a feeling—it's a restored relationship.

- Peace doesn't begin in our **schedules**; it begins in our **standing with God**.
- Before peace is practiced **horizontally** with others, it must be received **vertically** from God.
- The birth of Jesus signals the end of separation and the beginning of access.

We often chase peace by trying to quiet life—fixing circumstances, managing stress, controlling outcomes.

But Scripture points us deeper: peace flows from being made right with God.

**Imagine putting on a set of high-quality noise-canceling headphones in the middle of a packed airport.**

The chaos doesn't stop:

- Babies still cry.
- Announcements still echo.
- People still rush past.

But inside the headphones—everything changes.

The outside noise is still real, but it no longer controls what's happening inside.

That's what happens when peace with God settles into the heart.

The world may still be loud—but it is no longer the distraction it once was!!

## B. Christ Is Our Peace

### **Ephesians 2:13–14**

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.*

Notice what Paul says—

Christ doesn't just *bring* peace.

He *is* our peace.

- Peace is not a concept we master; it's a Person we trust.
- Through the cross, Jesus ends the war between us and God.
- What sin divided, Christ reconciled by His blood.

The chaos of the world doesn't instantly disappear...  
but it no longer controls the atmosphere of your soul.

When you have peace with God:

- **Anxiety** loses its authority
- **Guilt** loses its grip
- **Fear** loses its volume

**Peace begins when the war inside you ends.**

And once peace settles inside, it doesn't stay there.

God's peace always moves outward—  
into our relationships, our reactions, and the way we treat people.

Peace on earth begins with peace with God—  
and then it becomes visible in the way we live.

## II. Peace with Others

Peace with God Flows into Relational Peace

### **Romans 12:16–18**

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

When God makes peace with us, it never stays private.

Peace with God reshapes how we relate to people—especially difficult people.

### **Ephesians 2:14**

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*

Because Christ is our peace: We approach conflict differently

- We are no longer fighting for identity, status, or vindication.
- Forgiveness becomes our default posture, not our last resort. We forgive because we have been forgiven.
- Peace is not avoidance—it is gospel-shaped engagement. It doesn't ignore sin or pain, but it refuses retaliation and pride.

## **Imagine two people in conflict.**

Stretch them apart with tension—offense, misunderstanding, wounded pride.

Now picture an elastic band between them.

The more each person pulls, the tighter the tension becomes. Every harsh word, every cold shoulder, every attempt to “win” only increases the strain.

But when one person finally lets go, it doesn't immediately feel good. It stings.

There's a snap.

Forgiveness always hurts at first:

- It costs pride.
- It absorbs offense.
- It releases control.

But it also releases tension.

**That's exactly what Christ did for us.**

He absorbed what we deserved—our sin, our rebellion, our guilt—so that we could be released into peace with God.

**Our Responsibility in the Gospel**

That's why Paul says,  
*"If possible, so far as it depends on you..."*

- You can't control the other person.
- You can't force repentance.
- You can't guarantee reconciliation.

**But you can:**

- Release bitterness.
- Refuse retaliation.
- Choose humility.
- Let go of the tension from your side.

Peace begins when someone decides to stop pulling.

Peace spreads when one person chooses gospel humility over personal victory.

But this kind of peace doesn't come from personality, willpower, or emotional maturity alone.

This is not natural peace—it is Spirit-produced living.

And that's where Paul takes us next.

### III Peace Within

#### **Ephesians 2:18**

*And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, <sup>20</sup> but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

Jesus doesn't just make peace *around* us— He establishes peace *within* us.

Through Christ:

- We have access to the Father.
- We are no longer outsiders.
- We belong.

Inner peace grows from knowing where you stand with God.

**The world often talks about having the “Christmas spirit.”**

A seasonal mood.

A temporary feeling.

A sentimental lift.

But Scripture talks about something far deeper— Holy Spirit formation.

That's why Paul says in Galatians 5 that the fruit of the Spirit includes:

- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control

These qualities don't come from emotion, effort, or environment.

They come from transformation.

Imagine stapling apples to a dead tree.

From a distance:

- It looks alive.
- It looks fruitful.
- It looks impressive.

But up close— it's obviously a fraud

That's what it's like when we try to:

- act patient without heart change
- act kind without Spirit renewal
- act gentle without inner transformation

It may look convincing for a while, but it never lasts—especially under pressure.

The Holy Spirit doesn't staple fruit onto our lives.  
He grows fruit from the inside out.

That means you don't live out Christmas peace by trying harder.  
You live it out by walking closer with the Spirit.

**“Am I letting the Spirit shape how I respond when I’m stretched?”**

Peace within is not the absence of stress— it's the presence of the Spirit forming Christ in us.

## IV. CREATE A “PEACE PLAN”

### **Deciding in Advance How You Will Respond**

Pilots don't make flight plans *after* turbulence begins.  
They prepare **before** they ever leave the runway.

They assume:

- storms will come
- winds will shift
- pressure will rise

So when turbulence hits, they don't panic. They follow the plan they already committed to.

That's exactly what a **peace plan** is.

- Not reacting emotionally in the moment—but deciding spiritually **in advance**.

## Why a Peace Plan Matters

Most of our relational damage happens not because we didn't love God, but because we **responded too quickly**.

Scripture calls us to intentional, pre-decided living:

- *“Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger”* (James 1:19).
- *“Set your minds on things that are above”* (Colossians 3:2).

Peace doesn't happen accidentally. It is chosen deliberately.

## What a Peace Plan Looks Like

A peace plan might sound like this:

1. I will slow my responses.
2. I won't let urgency override wisdom.
3. I will listen before I defend.
4. Understanding comes before explanation.
5. I will choose humility over control.
6. I don't have to win to be faithful.
7. I will answer injury with grace.

Because Christ answered my sin with mercy.

These are not emotions you wait to feel. They are commitments you choose to live.

**The Bottom Line is:** You don't drift into peace. You **decide** on peace.

# Conclusion:

Long after:

- the food is gone,
- the gifts are opened,
- the decorations are packed away...

People will not remember:

- the table settings,
- the lighting,
- the playlist.

They will remember:

- the tension, or the calm,
- the grace, or the conflict,
- the way they were treated.

You will not control everything that happens in life  
But you absolutely influence the **spirit you bring into the room.**

And that spirit can preach the gospel louder than any sermon.

**Jesus didn't come to make December nicer. He came to make people new.**

And because:

- He made peace with God possible,
- He changed how we treat one another,
- He sent His Spirit to form His character within us...

**Peace on earth is still happening—one transformed heart at a time.**