

The Peace of God

**A Place to Live and
Experience**

Albert Friend

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Scripture quotations are taken from The Message Bible, The King James Version, And The New Living Translation.

Some scripture quotations are the author's Paraphrase.

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Peace!

Be Still!

**The wind and the
sea obey Him.**

Mark 4:39-41

Preface

The Message Bible calls God's peace, **God's wholeness**.

“Don't fret or worry. Rather than worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers. Let God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of **God's wholeness** and peace will come and settle you down. It's wonderful when Christ displaces worry from the center of your life.” Philipians 4:6-7

You need to believe that God's love for you is so strong that you can cast all your cares on Him (1 Pet. 5:7). He wants you to do this. Give God what He wants. When you cast your cares upon Him, God will fill you with His peace. Then, you will not worry. You will just love Him back as you perform His word in your life. Remember! This peace comes at the *beginning* of your trial. God speaks to you in the *beginning* of your trial. He speaks Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." God says, "Everything is going to be all right!"

God is a spirit. He is everywhere. With this knowledge, we can understand that God fills all the space around us at all times. In Him we live, move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). God can take care of you as though you were the only one in the universe He had to care for.

I challenge you to read this book. Study it and apply it. As you do, expect to receive God's peace in your heart.

Chapter 1

Faith in God's Love Produces Peace

You cannot live life without problems. I have found that we all get strength through the things we resist. The more we resist the stronger we get.

For example, with physical exercise we resist gravity by walking, running, swimming and doing many other things. Resisting gravity causes our bodies to become strong. Then, we become healthy and are able to handle our physical problems.

There are also problems that we cannot grab with our physical hands. These are spiritual battles. Sometimes we wish we could get hold of them with our two hands, but we can't. These problems are elusive. We seem to be unable to get hold of them. There is a way, however. We can pray.

The book in your hands is about how to build yourself strong in the Lord with His power and His might through prayer using the word of God (Eph. 6:10).

These are spiritual exercises that you can perform to win the victory over your enemy.

We all think in pictures; we do not think in words. When a person talks to us, we see a “picture” of the words he is saying. We do not see the letters of the alphabet spelling out the spoken words.

There are pictures of things I have never seen with my mind, therefore, I do not know they exist. I conclude from this that all living goes on in the mind. I conclude also that “better thinking means better living.” You need muscle in your mind to resist the devil’s spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). The muscle in your mind becomes stronger because you believe in God’s integrity. He cannot lie. His word cannot fail. You can trust every word He has spoken. In the end you win!

Better Thinking
means better
living.

I have had some thoughts growing in me for many years. I have taken a part of my harvest and used it for my immediate needs. There has always been more harvest than I needed personally, so I have returned it to reseed the field. I share my harvest with others. In this book, I want to sow into you

and plant into your heart some seed. Please accept it from the God who gave the increase.

There is no way for you to get God's peace without reading about it in the Bible. We all get lazy when we are reading unless what we read is appealing to us. Do not let your mind get lazy and wander away from your subject. Keep God's peace in focus. Give heed to your awareness level because this is where it will appear as a gift from God. Keep awake and alert until you activate God's peace in your heart. You must have the "want to" in you or it will not happen. God monitors your "want to."

The Way to Peace

God's peace is a promise in His word for you to believe. Your faith in this promise will come by hearing the word spoken by God, the word that I will be ministering to you in this book. All God's promises come to you through faith in His word.

I want to show you the way to peace. God has sent me to you so that you may believe in His peace.

Without faith it is impossible to get anything from God (Heb. 11:6). If you do not believe God's word, God's peace will have no affect on your life. You will still be at war with yourself.

There is no back door to yesterday that allows you to change what has happened to you. There is nothing coming in your front door that you can look forward to that will lift your load. The answer to your request for peace is in the “today.” Today, God is offering you His peace. He is doing it through the Prince of Peace, the one whose coming into the world was heralded by angels with the words, “Peace on earth, good will toward men.” Jesus is your answer. Have faith in God.

You cannot experience the peace of God while you are living in sin. God will not respond to you. You cannot produce God’s peace on your own. You cannot experience God’s peace until you call on God’s name.

You are not alone in your ignorance about God’s peace. The whole world lies in darkness. The great apostle Paul, in his book to the Romans, proves that Jews and Gentiles were all under sin, as he stated in Rom.3:9. Then in 3:17 he said: “God’s peace have they not known.”

You cannot trust in riches to give you peace. Money will not give you peace when you have lost a loved one through death.

I am coming to you, through this book, to show

you the way to peace as taught by Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. He is the light shining in the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome Him. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

God's peace only comes by His spirit because His peace is spiritual. It fills your whole being with peace.

Why do we not have peace? Because we worry.

Why do we worry? Because on our own, we cannot handle some problems in life.

What is our answer to all this? God's peace is our answer. God wants us to be at peace. He wants us to experience His peace at the level of our biggest problem. God's love is God's peace. He sent the "Prince of Peace" to teach us about this peace.

God wants to give you His peace through His promises in the Bible.

Peace is something that comes after the war has been won.

God wants you to have His peace when your battle *starts*. God's peace gives you the feeling that you have already won the battle! You feel as though your battle is already over. STOP! Read that again.

It's TRUE! You can have peace while fighting your battle!

God will give you His peace in your trial's starting moments.

He wants you to strike a covenant with Him by casting all your cares

Knowing that God's word cannot be broken allows the simplest person to become wise.

on Him (1 Pet. 5:7). He wants you to activate your faith in His word. Give God what He wants. Your peace will continue as long as you continue. He will supply you with peace until the battle is won.

How does this happen? You activate God's peace by believing a promise in His word. He wants you to trust in His integrity. Give God what He wants and He will perform His word in you.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "He that cometh to God must believe that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Notice the word "diligently."

Chapter 2

The Peace of God in Times of Sorrow and Grief

The peace of God is a “necessity” in coping with the death of one you love. When you lose someone you love, the loss is overwhelming. The grief is all darkness. Second Corinthians 7:10 says, “The sorrow of the world worketh death.” Grief will kill you. There are people who have let grief kill them. They couldn’t take the loss. The grief shut down their will to live and they just pined away. They just quit breathing because they felt hopeless. All they wanted to do was die. And die they did.

BUT! There is hope. That hope is in the peace of God that passes all understanding. God, in His all-wise providence, will break through your darkness and bring you His marvelous light. He loves you. He cares about

The proof that God’s word cannot fail lies in the past. Not one word that He has spoken has failed.

you. Man is by far His greatest creation. He wants you to be at peace again, not grieving over the death of the one you love.

The biggest hurdle in this battle is to accept it. When you first get word of the demise of your loved one, your first words are: "Oh, No!" You may repeat it: "NO! NO! NO! NO!" Then you burst into tears. Your resistance brings increased grieving. It is a horrible loss either way. The difference is this. In one you have hope, but in the other you have none. With no hope you have nothing to live for and you want to die. With hope something inside you says, "I will travel through this somehow. I will live on." The person with the hope is trusting in Him who said; "I am the resurrection and the life." His name is Jesus.

When my father died, my heart was full of sorrow. I heard him call my name so I went quickly to his bedside, knowing he was near the end. He was in the hospital and I was alone with him. Immediately, I went for the nurse who summoned the doctor. I stood there with my hand touching the upper left side of his chest, praying as he left this world. My first thoughts were, "My dad is gone. All the knowledge he would speak to me is gone. Never again will I hear his wisdom."

Then I thought of the story he told me about when

his dad, my grandpa Friend, died. My grandpa was about gone but he was making sounds. It was clear to my dad that Grandpa was calling his name. He was calling "Earl," who is my father and Grandpa's oldest son. Dad said he went to his side, put his hands on his cheeks, and stood there praying until Grandpa Friend was gone. The day Dad died, I felt like he wanted to leave me with the same blessing his dad had left him because he called out my name, "Al", his oldest son. Then, he died.

In several conversations we had, dad would tell me of a dream he had. He saw his dad walking through the glade near Friendsville, Maryland. Grandpa was waving his cap to dad as he walked through the wild flowers in the glade. Every time Dad told me this story, he would cry. This was twenty years after Grandpa's death. I was born in 1930, the same year my grandpa, Albert Friend, died. I don't remember ever seeing him.

I handled my father's death well until the day we drove away from the old homestead. Then I broke and wept uncontrollably. I did not realize what I was holding back. Grief overwhelmed me as I drove away, heading for my home.

Twenty years later, I went through a much more

horrible time of grief. I lost my oldest son who was named after me, Albert Lewis Friend Jr. He was 38 years old when he died of an incurable brain tumor. This was, by far, the biggest test of my life.

His battle with this tumor covered a three-year period. I was with him frequently during this time since his wife was in college, studying to be a nurse. When the doctor told them Albert's test results, they wept together and then set their faces toward their future. Kimberly, who we called Kim, would continue her nursing studies so she would be able to take care of their two daughters, Holly and Rachel. Albert determined to commit himself to God and the road He had given him to walk. He set his face toward heaven and told the family, "If God does not choose to heal me, but decides to take me, do not be mad at God."

My son had activated the peace of God at his deepest level.

He resigned the pastorate of his church in Bethel, Ohio and then began to minister with me

in our church in Hamilton. He wrote his testimony

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

in a brochure we published for circulation. I am inserting it here.

On the brochure, there was a picture of a church building on the front page. The title on the front page read as follows:

I FOUND PROBLEMS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH BUILDING BUT JESUS IS ON BOTH SIDES TOO!

By Albert Friend Jr.

My name is Albert Friend Jr.

You may think it would be much easier to be a Christian if your parents were, or if they may have even been ministers in some church. It is not. More is expected of you even though you are no less or more human than anyone else. I had more judges than fellows, but I had the best examples in my parents. God saved me from my sins. I'm still as human as ever: still with problems to overcome. By God's amazing grace I succeed.

I grew up going to church and found problems on both sides of the walls of the church building. But I learned that my savior was on both sides of the wall too. On July 31, 1989 I went into surgery at the University Hospital in Cincinnati for a brain tumor removal where I learned that Astrocytoma

(my case) is an incurable deadly cancer. After surgery I underwent the suggested radiation treatments with little hope of improvement. There was none.

May 31, 1990 I was back in the hospital for another dose of the same thing. Another tumor was removed and I spent another seven days in the hospital, five days in ICU. God provided for my family's needs the entire time. We never did without. Yes we questioned God vehemently, ????? Why God? Why? The answer, "Trust me. I know what I'm doing." "The just shall live by faith and not by sight" (Rom. 1:17 & 2 Cor. 5:17). "Why" is not a faith based question.

I'm sure that one reason why this has happened to me is to make me another witness of what God wants to do for you.

You don't need some terrible problem to get you to come to the Lord do you? See and take heed to my witness. God can, will, wants to, take special care of you. He is on both sides of the wall of the church building. God knows about you. He

Perfect peace is a rare quality. You can achieve it when you keep your mind stayed on Jesus, because your trust is in Him only.

loves you and has great patience. Yes it's amazing grace. And it's yours too.

It has been more than two years since then and there is another tumor. I have committed myself to God again and this time said “No” to the surgeon. God has continuously performed a great miracle in me. *THERE IS NO PAIN!*

Nobody can live life like that without God’s help. Join us! We care! We understand! We’ve been there too. Join us and we’ll make it together.

Bio

Albert Friend Jr. is a 37-year-old father of two beautiful daughters, Holly and Rachel. His wife Kim is studying at Miami University, Hamilton Branch, to be a Nurse. He has provided pastoral care in Birdseye, Indiana and Bethel, Ohio. He is now ministering in Hamilton at the Abundant Life Ministries Church. His sickness has made him well known around the world wherever we have missionaries. He is willing to speak wherever asked. His witness is positive and he will minister to anyone with needs. He faces life with an attitude that every day is an extension. For him to live is Christ, to die is gain!

The end of the brochure

Albert once told me about a time when his children were creating noise. They were having fun at night and he couldn’t get to sleep. He said, “I just lay there praising God, thanking Him that I could still hear.” He walked a straight course, with peace in

his heart, until the end.

Kim had to spend a lot of time going to school and studying. I was privileged to be with Albert much of the time when Kim could not. I was his moral support. He loved me and leaned on me. I went with him to his chemotherapy treatments, which caused his hair to fall out. I listened as he told me how he would get a handful of hair in his hand when showering. The chemotherapy didn't work but his hair did grow back. He always looked like a healthy, strong man. The tumor was his big problem.

The progress of the astrocytoma tumor is like turning the lights out one at a time. That was the way it worked with him. I walked with him as the lights started to go out. He was so brave! He kept the peace of God at the deepest level of his life.

Before his last days, we picked up his bed with him in it, and moved him into our home. Then on Sunday evening, November 29, 1992, at about 11pm, our family gathered around his bed. He was laboring hard in his breathing.

Let me insert something here before telling you more. Our family knows the peace of God. We all knew Albert was going to where he belonged. We