

Pursuing Peace in Troubled Times

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Hebrews 12:14 *Pursue peace with all*
2 Timothy 2:22 *Flee the evil desires of*
1 Cor 10:31 *Whatever ye do, do all*
Romans 12:18 *as far as it depends on*

1 We begin each day with a prayer for God to give us His Holy Spirit so we can *strive for peace* in every situation.

2 We ask God to enable us to *react* or *respond* to difficult situations; offensive people; and unnecessary criticism in a scriptural way. Joshua 1:5 AV *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee."*

3 The first step in pursuing peace is accepting God's Word as our standard of conduct and depending on His Spirit to be able to *"Pursue peace with all people."* Hebrews 12:14 NKJV.

4 Pursuing peace promises Paradise—we *"will see the Lord."*

5 If we appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made to buy us back from the world; to free us from angry responses; and to quickly forgive everyone; we will try to bring peace concerning any situation.

6 Jesus said AV John 14:15 *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

7 Millions of people say they *know* the Ten Commandments but do not *keep* the words of

Jesus in mind, and do not *follow* His commands in life.

8 The man who wanted *eternal life* was told AV Matthew 19:17 *"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."*

9 Pursuing peace is directly linked to following instructions Jesus gave regarding situations we may face.

10 Jesus said AV John 14:6 *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

11 We must admit that we do not always know the right way to go, or the scriptural response to make, but God's Word in our heart reminds us NIV 2 Timothy 2:22 *"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace."*

12 With any situation or person we meet in day's time, we ask, *What the Bible says* and proceed accordingly.

13 We think, *Am I following the Word or the world?* NIV Romans 6:16 *"You are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to life and righteousness."*

14 The Christian asks God for the ability to *pursue peace* in every situation—around the home, at school, during work, or with neighbors.

15 God does *not force* us to obey, but He gives *the ability* to obey. When we ask in faith and believe, He will enable us to *calm* any troubling situation. NIV Mark 9:50 *"Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."*

16 Every day we are given opportunities to respond, to react, and remind ourselves, *Am I making an impact on others? Am I committed to honoring God by the way I'm talking or the words I'm using?*

17 To make a difference we first make a *commitment—follow the Word.*

18 Living the *Truth* means obeying the *Word*; it means following God's *Commands* and

responding in a Christlike *attitude* whenever speaking. A kind *word* will make an *impact* on people.

19 The advice of Jesus is—*forgive all; love enemies; and trust God* for strength to do those things.

20 Jesus rises to life, so we can rise to a *new* life of *new attitudes.*

21 Jesus *did not* have to visit earth—so why did He? He *was not* forced to die on a cross—so why did He? One word *Love!* He sacrificed His life *on earth* so we can live *in Heaven.*

22 Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice on the *cross* to buy us *back* from the world. It was a huge price to pay to free us from worldly responses.

23 Our *choices, words* and *replies* must be in harmony with the Word—1 Corinthians 10:31 AV *"Whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

24 We are to constantly remind ourselves to *pursue peace* at all times—on the playing field; with family members; at work—just being the peacemaker *wherever possible* or *whenever* we can.

25 NIV Romans 12:18 *"as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

26 When reading the Bible—we should be taking notes, have a tablet, and recording main points.

27 Jesus paid a huge price for our *changed* life—we thank Him by *obeying* Him, *forgiving* others, showing *love*, being *patient*, and offering *prayers.*

28 NIV 2 Thessalonians 3:16 *"May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way."*

29 Satan suggests that we tried to bring peace, but failed. The ones involved weren't cooperating and did not *want peace*—they *wanted to win the argument*—we say.

30 But no matter how difficult the situation could be—God says AV 2 Corinthians 12:9 *"My*

grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

31 We all need to be acceptable to God—and there *is* a way to *be* acceptable—**Romans 5:1-2** AV “*Therefore being justified [accepted by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.]*”

32 The many mistakes, bad choices, and harmful habits are forgiven and behind us. Satan’s power was broken at the Cross—we just need to *repent* and make a *commitment* **not** to conform to the world but be *transformed* by the Spirit **Romans 12:2**.

33 We may have been a slave to wrong desires, impure thoughts, and worldly attitudes—but now we know how *wrong* they were, and of the *wrong direction* in which we were going.

34 By the Spirit’s power we choose—“*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*” **Galatians 5:22-23** NIV.

35 Temptations can be constant and intense—like Joseph’s **Genesis 39**. That type happens every day around the world, but most people yield and do not resist.

36 His boss’s wife wanted him to commit an immoral sin, but Joseph refused and ran.

37 He could have yielded—she was the boss’s wife, and he was just a servant who was supposed to do what she said.

38 It would have been easy to give in, but Joseph had given his *life* to God early on, and he knew the Scriptures **Exodus 20:14** “*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*”

39 The temptations we face may be less serious, but regardless of the *type* or *severity*, we are to *resist* and *run* as Joseph did.

40 God will give us the *ability* to resist—we just *ask* Him to help us. If we resist Satan flees **James 4:7**.

41 Consider how often we are *tempted* to resent an injustice; to entertain immoral thoughts; use the world’s profanity; snap back in anger; or to slander someone by nodding in agreement.

42 God’s Word keeps coming *back* and keeps reminding us to *pursue peace* and not take part in other people’s sins.

43 **Hebrews 12:14** WEY “*Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which **no one will see the Lord.***”

44 Life can be a constant struggle with the devil. **Hebrews 12:15** WEY “*Be carefully on your guard lest there be any one who falls back from the grace of God; lest any root bearing bitter fruit spring up and cause trouble among you, and through it the **whole** brotherhood be defiled.*”

45 When insulted or criticized, we are to *forgive* right away—as Jesus did. **Colossians 3:12-13** NIV “*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*”

46 God has *selected* you to be compassionate and to act in a kindly manner.

47 He goes on: “***Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***”

48 We follow the Lord because we bear His name—Christian! He paid the price for our *transformation*, and He took the wrong attitudes *out* of our heart.

49 Christianity is exclusive—it is **One way only**—that fact must be kept in permanent memory if we wear the Christian label.

50 “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is **no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved***” **Acts 4:12** NIV.

51 Every day is another opportunity to *prove* we are a believer, so every day we ask God to *change* our heart from **defiance** to **compliance**!

52 We want to *comply* with His Word; we desire to *submit* to His Lordship; and we want to *conform* to **His way**.

53 The enormous *price* He paid is the enormous *change* in us that can be *seen, heard*, and *witnessed* by those around us.

54 AV **Romans 6:22-23** “*Now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*”

55 If we do not *pursue peace* in these troubled times; if we do not constantly ask God to transform our heart from **defiance** to **compliance**, we will regret it forever!

56 “*For the wages of sin is **death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

57 It is of major importance that we *improve* in our attitudes and see *change* in our responses every day—it is called *growing in holiness*.

58 It is vital that we make an attempt to be the *peacemaker* in *all* situations; and absolutely necessary to do whatever *we can* to *calm* an angry situation or to *diffuse* a heated argument.

59 **Pursuing peace** is vital because—“*Without which no one will see the Lord*” **Hebrews 12:14**.



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