



Isaiah 9:1-7

^[a]Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan— ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Getting Started:

- What is the historical context of Isaiah 9, and why were the Israelites in need of hope and peace during that time?
- How does Isaiah describe the coming Messiah, and what significance do His titles (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) hold?
- How is this light symbolic of hope and salvation?

Digging Deeper:

- According to Dave's sermon, why is Jesus referred to as the Prince of Peace?
- How does the peace that Jesus offers differ from the peace that the world provides?
- In what ways can you experience and share the peace of Christ during challenging times or in your current circumstances?

Sunday, Dave emphasized three critical kinds of peace: **Peace with God, Peace of God, and Peace in God**. He explained, **Peace with God** is achieved through faith in Jesus as Savior, a relationship that reconciles humanity with its Creator. The **Peace of God** comes from daily fellowship with Him, guiding us through life's trials with calm assurance. And the third, **Peace in God** is found by abiding in His presence, walking in continual trust and obedience. These dimensions of peace, grounded in Christ's sacrifice and presence, enable us to navigate a world often filled with turmoil.

- How are these three types of Peace distinct from one another?
- Why is it important to understand these different dimensions of peace in the Christian faith?
- What role does reconciliation with God play in transforming our relationship with Him and others?
- What does it mean to experience the Peace of God through daily fellowship with Him?
- How does this peace help us face life's challenges with calm assurance?
- In what ways have you experienced one or more of these types of peace recently, and how has it impacted you?

Philippians: 4:6-7

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

- How can you apply these lessons as you prepare for the Christmas season and beyond?
- How does the practice of prayer and petition help us combat anxious thoughts?
- How can gratitude shift our perspective during difficult times?
- Why is thanksgiving an essential part of presenting our requests to God?

Dave said in his sermon that “God says we need to remember that if we know Christ is our savior, we have the prince of peace already living in our hearts.”

- How does a relationship with Christ enable us to experience this peace?
- How does Jesus' peace function as a guard for our hearts and minds?
- Why is the phrase “in Christ Jesus” significant to understanding how this peace is received?

John 15:7

⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 16:33

³³“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- What does it mean to “remain in” Christ and have His words remain in us?
- Why is abiding in Christ crucial for experiencing His peace, according to John 15:7 and John 16:33?
- How can we actively cultivate this kind of abiding relationship with Jesus?
- How do these passages bring hope to us in situations of distress or darkness?
- What encouragement does Jesus offer in the statement, “I have overcome the world”?

Application:

- Is Jesus your peace this Christmas Season?
- Have you understood and are you learning what it means to abide in him?
- Christ offers peace that the world can't use. And that peace comes from knowing him personally. Do you know for sure you're on your way to heaven?
- Do you have that peace that surpasses all understanding?
- What practical steps can we take to embrace Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace in our daily lives?