

# **The Peace of Christ Pt2**

## **How to Have the Peace of Christ**

### **John 14:27**

John 14:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

## **Introduction**

Eswatini (Swaziland), a small, beautiful kingdom between South Africa and Mozambique, is in dire need. It has the one of the highest AIDS rates in the world and the disease has taken an entire generation of Swazis. In the 90's the population was decreasing so rapidly that the UN estimated the Swazi people would be wiped out by the year 2050. Although hard work has improved the statistics, the country has suffered persistent drought, adding to the problems. There are around 120,000 orphans and vulnerable children in desperate need of care.

In 2016 a Canadian couple, Brendan Perrott, 33, his wife, Melissa, 32, Left there home and jobs a Electrician and Massage Therapist to serve as missionaries here in South Africa. They had 2 children, Evelyn, 5, and Colton, 3, along with an orphan they were mentoring named Sabelo Sibeko Last Sunday as they were heading back home from a biking event they had attended for Sabelo,they were all killed when their vehicle was hit in a [head-on collision](#). Four other victims in the other vehicle died when the vehicles exploded in the crash.

“Preliminary investigations reveal that the other vehicle attempted to overtake and pass an on coming vehicle at a high rated of speed. “It crossed a solid line, lost control and hit our precious family in a fatal head-on collision. They were all burnt beyond recognition.  
an [SABC report said](#).

“We mourn and grieve for ourselves, as well as with their families, relatives and friends as we bring them home, Its our loss and Heavens gain.” the Christian nonprofit said.

This kind of tragedy and sometimes far worse occurs nearly daily throughout the world.

We live in a world of tragedy. A world of Pain and misery. Depression and Destruction. In the last

20 years we seen men fly planes into building because there religion tells them to kill unbelievers, We seen Tsunamis that have killed 100s of thousand of people in a matter of minutes. We watched as hurricanes have flooded and destroyed countless homes, and taken hundreds of lives.

We witnessed the rise of ISIS and watched as they ruthlessly killed and destroyed 1000s of lives. We seen Wars were men and women died trying to keep peace and protect our land. This not to mention the escalation of abortion, drug abuse and suicide.

Christians who are committed to the teachings of Scripture are experiencing more persecution than ever in recent history.

The growing hatred and lack of toleration for Biblical fidelity is mounting.

This list could go on and on

Yet it is in the midst of all this that we are commanded to

John 14:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

## Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> And **let** the peace of God (Christ) **rule** in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**/brabeúō** ("decide as an umpire") means to arbitrate, i.e. "making the call" in "a conflict between contending forces" (Souter), used only in Col 3:15.

## Philippians 4:4–7 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

## Matthew 6:25 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> **“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life,** what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

## Matthew 6:34 (NKJV)

<sup>34</sup> **Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**(kakia) evil

# Lesson

John 14:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

"the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is":

## **How to have the Peace of God in your life**

**You need to be**

- 1. Saved**
- 2. Sanctified**
- 3. Subservient**

**1. Be Saved**

**There is NO peace and can be now peace Objective and Subjective with out a right relationship with God.**

You Must have Peace with God before you can have the Peace of God

We talked about this

Peace starts with a right relationship with God.

Scripture is clear that before you are saved, you are God's enemy

Romans 5:9–10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

<sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

**So you need**

**1. Objective —Peace With God**

**Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**

**5** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Romans 5:8–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

**Ephesians 2:14–16 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,

**Colossians 1:19–21 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, <sup>20</sup> and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

## 2. Be Sanctified

A second consideration of How to have the peace of Christ is how the choice will affect the peace of mind that comes with a clear conscience (cf. Rom. 14:22–23; 1 Cor. 8:12). Thoughts, words, and deeds consistent with the peace of Christ will result in a clear, good, and blameless conscience (Acts 23:1; 24:16; 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 13:18; 1 Peter 3:16); those that are not will result in a troubled, accusing conscience (1 Sam. 24:5). Christians who live in unrepentant sin forfeit the experience of peace and assurance that is Christ's legacy to His people. Remembering his sin with Bathseba, David declared to God:

When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted  
away  
Through my groaning all day long;  
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of  
summer.  
I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I did not hide  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin. (Ps. 32:3–5)

The unsettled, guilt-ridden conscience is made whole when the believer confesses his sin to God and repents



(cf. 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 1:9). Knowing that his sin has been forgiven (through the cross) and that his relational fellowship with God has been restored (through confession and repentance), the believer can once again experience the profound peace that God offers to all of His children.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [\*John 12–21\*](#) (p. 129). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

### **3. Be Subservient** —- believe and trust in the Sovereignty of God.

Life is full of trouble and uncertainty. We all face times of great despair. We lack faith, and full of anxiety. Sometime fear is all we can know and see. The light seems to diminish and for a time it looks as if darkness will overtake us.

Tragedy, Disease and Death can strike at any moment with such intensity that it leaves us baffled and wondering why such things happen. Believer or unbeliever... there seems to be no discrimination.

Some interpret these things as meaningless events that occur throughout the world and bring such suffering and pain with no answer other than, the random acts of nature.

It looks as if there is no rime or reason, but just a chance collision of atoms, spontaneously causing havoc in the world.

Some have reasoned that this is fate. Just determination for the sake of determination. No reason, no greater cause, no good and no God.

But is that really the way it is. Are we just meaningless groups of cells formed over billions of year from stardust. Our birth, life and family are just purposeless, meaningless, hopeless.

Is it true that there is no real reason for the tragedy, the suffering, the disease, the conflict, hostility and the hatred we have all experienced. Can we all say that we are on a meaningless path of pitfalls and dangers, turmoil and death with no hope of purpose and peace?

First of all it needs to be acknowledged that all of us will have pain and suffering. All of us will experience some form of tragedy or turmoil. This is a fallen world. It is directly affected by Disease, Destruction, and Death. This world and all that is in it set on a course to Disintegration

So we are not concerned as to how to avoid those things on this temporary planet.

What we want to know is how can we have Peace in the midst of the storm

Acts 27:20–26 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on *us*, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

<sup>21</sup> But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.

<sup>22</sup> And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. <sup>23</sup> For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, <sup>24</sup> saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ <sup>25</sup> Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. <sup>26</sup> However, we must run aground on a certain island.”

What was it that gave Paul such peace?

Paul lived this verses

**Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This was not intellectual exercise. It was not orthodoxy without orthopraxy HE lived it.

What was it that gave him the contentment and confidence that all was going to be ok? What was it that removed all the fear and anxiety from his soul? Who was it that Paul believed was in control of the Storm and Ship and the men on the ship and his own life?

How you answer these questions will determine whether or not you will ever have peace

**Here's how some have chosen to answer**

## 1. Chance is in control

### **Some define Chance as;**

a possibility of something happening.

the occurrence and development of events in the absence of any obvious design.

do something by accident or without design.

Now what evolution basically says is that over time, by chance, matter evolved into the entire universe. Jacques Monod won the – this is unthinkable – the Nobel Prize, and in his book *Chance and Necessity* he says this: “Man is alone in the universe’s unfeeling immensity out of which he emerged by chance.” That’s the Nobel-winning biologist. “Chance alone is the source of every innovation. Chance alone is the source of all creation in the biosphere.” He writes, “Pure chance, absolutely free but blind, is at the very root of the stupendous edifice of evolution.”

Noted evolutionist J. W. Burrow writes in his introduction to *The Origin of Species*, “Nature, according to Darwin, was the product of blind chance and a blind struggle, and man, a lonely intelligent mutation, scrambling with the brutes for his sustenance. To some the sense of loss was irrevocable; it was as if an umbilical cord had been

cut, and men found themselves part of a cold passionless universe. Unlike nature as conceived by the Greeks, the Enlightenment, and the rationalist Christian tradition Darwinian nature held no clues for human conduct and no answers to human moral dilemmas.”

...man was just cut loose from any meaning whatsoever. He is a lonely, intelligent mutation, produced out of chance. He is protoplasm waiting to become manure.

And as one writer said, “Chance is the new soft pillow for science to lie down on.” Arthur Koestler said, “As long as chance rules, God is an anachronism.”

If chance rules, God can't rule. Chance deposes God. The very existence of chance rips God from His sovereign throne. If chance as a force exists even in the frailest form, God is “ungoded,” if there's such a word. The two are mutually exclusive.

But let me tell you about chance. Friends, chance doesn't exist. It's nothing. It's nothing. Chance is a word used to explain something else. But chance isn't anything. It's not a force. Chance doesn't make

anything happen. Chance doesn't exist. It's only a way to explain something else.

Nobel laureate George Wald, brilliant man, I quote him: "One has only to wait: time itself performs the miracles. Given so much time the impossible becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable actually certain." End quote. What in the world is that? That is just double-talk, that is absolutely meaningless. Self-creation is absurd no matter how much time, because chance does not exist. It doesn't exist.

**Creation: Believe It or Not, Part 1**

- *Sermons Genesis 1:1 90-208 Mar 21, 1999*

## 2. I'm in control

That is a dangerous and sobering thought.

I'm of master of my fate, I'm the captian of my soul

I'm the center of my universe. I cause and determine everything in my life.

My will is supreme and sovereign. I do as I will, always as I will and no other will shall stop me.

Without the Bible, this can be proven false.

You have no control on where you are born, when you are born, who your parents are. You have no control over whether you are male or female. Tall or short. Black or white, asian or Russian, American or Hispanic.

You have no control over your death, the contracting of disease.

In Paul case on the sea, He had no control of the waves, the wind, the ship. the other men. who would or wouldn't survive if any.

You are not in control. This life and all that it involves is much much bigger than you and your free will.

### 3. The Devil is in Control

If you listen to a lot of the contemporary TV evangelist and seeker church pastors, you would believe that the Devil has control of a lot of the things in you life. In fact it would be believed that God is restricted by how much faith you have to defeat the Devil.

The Universe is presented as the War between Go and the Devil, and frankly devil wins an awful lot. Look at all the evil, death and destruction. Look at



all the sin, and disease and conflict. Obviously it is believed that the Devil rules.

We are just pawns on the chess board of life moved about by the Devil until we are finally destroyed.

Verses like these are said to teach that the Devil is in control.

Satan is sometimes called in the Bible “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) or “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4) or “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), or a “cosmic power over this present darkness” (Ephesians 6:12).  
1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Matthew 4:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

But does the Bible teach that the Devil can do as he wishes and he’s in control.

#### 4. You and Devil and God share control.

This is the most popular, evangelical View today.

The popular bumpersticker theology.

God votes for you, the Devil votes against you but you cast the deciding vote.

In your sinful condition, your vote would always be against God.

or

God is my co-pilot.

God is the only Pilot. The universe too big and you don't know how to fly.

So in this view

Everyone is Somewhat sovereign.

God plans it, the Devil fights against it. and you make it happen.

This is a disastrous synergistic view of life. This is a exaltation self to the point of deification of humanity.

What possible hope and peace can be brought by this view. God just plans it and you make it happen if the devil doesn't stop it.

Some argue that God takes care of the Big stuff, The Hurricanes, the Earthquakes, the Wars of Nations, The rise and fall of kings, you know the big stuff.

But you of your own free will handle and control your life, the individual choices you make .

But what is often missed in this scenario is that it is often the little, seemingly insignificant choices that we make that cause the biggest tragedies.

1. The accidental forgetting to change the battery in a smoke alarm that allows the fire to destroy the house with your children in it.

2. The making a wrong turn on a street that ends upon a head on collision that takes your families life.

3. The taking of a medication that the FDA said was approved only to find out that it destroyed your liver and you are now terminally ill.

4. The young lady who was raised in a broken home where the parents are unwilling to give instructions on relationships with young men while attending public school and got pregnant and then

was given the wrong information from the school counselor that she did not have to tell her parents and that was not a baby and could be terminated with not problems and no guilt

What words of hope and peace to you give these people.

Do you say

Your just a victim of chance in a meaningless universe of choices made by meaningless people.

or

The Devil has full reign in you Life and can do what he will and you can't or can any one else stop him.

or

If you had just had the right parents or the right information you could have made the right choices. But God had no control and has no control over it.

Its no wonder the therapist can keep you on the couch for years. There are no answers. NO hope . No Peace.

But None of this is what Paul the apostle believed and more importantly this is not what the Bible Teaches

Acts 17:16–31 (NKJV)

### ***The Philosophers at Athens***

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?”

### **Epicureans Believed**

1. Everything happened by chance
2. Death was the end of everything
3. gods were remote and not involved in creation
4. Pleasure was the ultimate goal of life.

### **Stoics**

1. Everything was God Pantheism
2. Everything is the will of God ie. Fatalist.

3. Humanitarian self deification they where god and the master of their fate, captain of their soul.

Sounds like Theistic Deist, Darwinian Evolutionary Atheists, Evangelical Arminian

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; <sup>23</sup> for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

<sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

<sup>25</sup> Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

<sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

<sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

<sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. <sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Notice what Paul brings to bear on the conscious of these pagan philosophers.

## **1. God is the Creator**

<sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it,

<sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,

## **2. Independent and Sufficient**

<sup>25</sup> Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything,

## **3. God is the Sustainer and giver of ALL Life**

<sup>25</sup> ...since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

<sup>28</sup> ...for in Him we live and move and have our being,

## **4. He is Spiritual**

<sup>24</sup>...does not dwell in temples made with hands.

<sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

## **5. He is Savior**



<sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

<sup>28</sup> for in Him we live

<sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Please notice, that even to unbelievers that Pauls Declares That God is

**6. God is Sovereign Commander of Heaven and Earth.**

<sup>24</sup>....He is Lord of heaven and earth

<sup>26</sup>....and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

<sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.

26....and has **determined** their **preappointed** times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

## **determined**

**horizó:** to mark off by boundaries, to determine

**Original Word:** ὁρίζω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** horizó

**Phonetic Spelling:** (hor-id'-zo)

**Definition:** to mark off by boundaries, to determine

**Usage:** I separate, mark off by boundaries; I determine, appoint, designate.

3724 horizō (from horos, "boundary, limit") – properly, to set boundaries (limits) – literally, "determine horizons" (boundaries).

**3724** /horizō ("designate limits, boundaries") refers to the Lord (literally) "horizoning" all the physical scenes of life before creation. This guarantees God works each in conjunction with His eternal purpose (providence, see **4286** /próthesis).

## **preappointed**

**prostassó:** to place at, give a command

**Original Word:** προστάσσω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** prostassó

**Phonetic Spelling:** (pros-tas'-so)

**Definition:** to place at, give a command

**Usage:** (a) I instruct, command, (b) I appoint, assign.

4367 prostássō (from 4314 /prós, "move towards, with," which intensifies 5021 /tássō, "to place, arrange") – properly, allot, emphasizing the intention of the one assigning (commanding).

[Matthew 1:24 V-AIA-3S](#)

GRK: ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ

NAS: of the Lord **commanded** him, and took

KJV: of the Lord **had bidden** him,

INT: did as **had commanded** him the

[Matthew 8:4 V-AIA-3S](#)

GRK: δῶρον ὃ προσέταξεν Μωυσῆς εἰς

NAS: that Moses **commanded**, as a testimony

KJV: that Moses **commanded**, for a testimony

INT: gift which **commanded** Moses for

[Mark 1:44 V-AIA-3S](#)

GRK: σου ἃ προσέταξεν Μωυσῆς εἰς

NAS: Moses **commanded**, as a testimony

KJV: which Moses **commanded**, for

INT: of you what **commanded** Moses for

[Luke 5:14 V-AIA-3S](#)

GRK: σου καθὼς προσέταξεν Μωυσῆς εἰς

NAS: as Moses **commanded**, as a testimony

KJV: Moses **commanded**, for

INT: of you as **commanded** Moses for

[Acts 10:33 V-RPM/P-ANP](#)

GRK: πάντα τὰ προστεταγμένα σοι ὑπὸ

NAS: all **that you have been commanded** by the Lord.

KJV: all things **that are commanded** thee

INT: all things that **having been commanded** you by

[Acts 10:48 V-AIA-3S](#)

GRK: προσέταξεν δὲ αὐτοὺς

NAS: And he ordered them to be baptized

KJV: And he commanded them to be baptized

INT: he commanded more

So Paul had peace and Contentment because he understood and believed that the Sovereign God of the Universe was in control of all of his life and circumstances

### Romans 8:18–20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;

### Romans 8:22–24 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. <sup>23</sup> Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly

waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.  
<sup>24</sup> For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

### Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

“Spiritual stability and Peace demands resting on a confident faith in the Lord. It demands resting on a confident faith in the Lord.”

He is in control, working His plan in your life for a greater good.

He is involved in the details of our life, from the beginning to the end and into all eternity. Nothing escapes his notice, and nothing escapes his purpose and ordained plan for your life.

### Philippians 4:5–7 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand.**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Verse 5 says, “The Lord is near;” verse 6 says, “be anxious for nothing.”

We’re talking about here “near,” eggus, in the sense of space, if we can use that as a designation, as opposed to time.

**eggus: near (in place or time)**

**Original Word:** ἐγγύς

**Part of Speech:** Adverb

**Transliteration:** eggus

**Phonetic Spelling:** (eng-goos')

**Definition:** near (in place or time)

**Usage:** near.

It is true that the Lord is near in the sense of His second coming, but that’s not really the priority here. The Lord is near in terms of His presence. And because the Lord is near, we’re not anxious for

anything. So spiritual stability, then, is predicated on a confident faith in the Lord. That's the bottom line.

The way you handle problems, temptations, trials, difficulties, is a reflection of your view of God.

If you understand the Lord and who He is and all His power and all His promise and all His resources and purposes and plans toward you and you also understand that He's always near, then where's the cause for anxiety? What are you going to be anxious about?

Psalm 4:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;  
For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Proverbs 3:19–26 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;  
By understanding He established the heavens;  
<sup>20</sup> By His knowledge the depths were broken up,  
And clouds drop down the dew.  
<sup>21</sup> My son, let them not depart from your eyes—  
Keep sound wisdom and discretion;  
<sup>22</sup> So they will be life to your soul  
And grace to your neck.  
<sup>23</sup> Then you will walk safely in your way,

And your foot will not stumble.

<sup>24</sup> When you lie down, you will not be afraid;

Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

<sup>25</sup> Do not be afraid of sudden terror,

Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;

<sup>26</sup> For the Lord will be your confidence,

And will keep your foot from being caught.

If you understand that God is sovereign, God is Holy and all wise, God is Gracious and God is loving, if you understand that God is in control of everything in your life for His glory and your good,

if you understand that nothing is beyond the purview of God's control, if you understand that He's orchestrating everything for eternal purpose and you can rest in that confident faith, then you're going to be stable in the most serious times.

When people have difficulties that they can't solve, when they get into problems that debilitate them and raise their anxiety level and cause all kinds of personal trauma, the right answer isn't "You need to go to someone who can talk about your problem." That is not the right answer. The right answer is



“You need to better understand the God who is sovereign over your problem.”

That is the answer. It is a fallacy to assume that some kind of careful human analysis of the problem is going to provide the solution.

The solution is to understand “I am a fallen person, I live in a fallen world, it is cursed and I bear the mark of that curse in my own fallen flesh. This is what is to be expected. I will rest in the confident faith that my God is sovereign over all this fallenness to effect His own eternal purposes.” That’s the solution to the problem, that perspective. An adequate knowledge of God is essential in the matter of spiritual stability.

John MacArthur

**Spiritual Stability, Part 4: Thankful Prayer**

- Sermons *Philippians 4:6b-7* 50-40 Sep 24, 1989

The tragedies of the last 20 years and ten thousand personal losses have helped us discover how little the American church is rooted in this truth.

David Wells, in his book, *Above All Earthly Pow’rs: Christ in a Postmodern World*, says it like this:

This moment of tragedy and evil [referring to 9/11] shone its own light on the church and what we came to see was not a happy sight. For what has become conspicuous by its scarcity, ...is a spiritual *gravitas*, one which could match the depth of horrendous evil

and address issues of such seriousness. Evangelicalism, now much absorbed by the arts and tricks of marketing, is simply not very serious anymore.”

In other words, our vision of God in relation to evil and suffering was shown to be frivolous. The church has not been spending its energy to go deep with the unfathomable God of the Bible. Against the overwhelming weight and seriousness of the Bible, much of the church is choosing, at this very moment, to become more light and shallow and entertainment-oriented, and therefore successful in its irrelevance to massive suffering and evil.

The popular God of fun-church is simply too small and too affable to hold a hurricane in his hand. The biblical categories of God’s sovereignty lie like landmines in the pages of the Bible waiting for someone to seriously open the book. They don’t kill, but they do explode trivial notions of the Almighty.<sup>john piper</sup>

Sometimes we need to plunge our minds into the ocean of God’s sovereignty. We need to feel the weight of it, like deep and heavy water pressing in against every pore, the deeper we go. A billion rivers of providence pour into this ocean.

Sometimes we need to be reminded by God himself that there are no limits to his rule. We need to hear from him that he is sovereign over the whole world, and everything that happens in it. We need his own reminder that he is never helpless, never frustrated, never at a loss. We need his assurance that he reigns over ISIS, terrorism, Syria, Russia, China, India, Nigeria, France, Saudi Arabia, and the United States of America — every nation, every people, every language, every tribe, every chief, president, king, premier, prime minister, and politician, great or small.

Vague generalizations about the power of God and the Sovereignty of God do not have the same effect as the very voice of God telling us specifically how strong he is, how pervasive his power, how universal his authority, how unlimited his sovereignty. And that our times are in his hands.

john piper

**The Definition of Sovereignty-** God has the right and authority to do as He pleases and Does always do exactly as He pleases in whatever way brings Him the Most Glory

**God is Able to do as He Pleases**

**Isaiah 46:10–11 (NKJV)**

- <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet*  
done,  
Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure,’
- <sup>11</sup> Calling a bird of prey from the east,  
The man who executes My counsel, from a far  
country.  
Indeed I have spoken *it*;  
I will also bring it to pass.  
I have purposed *it*;  
I will also do it.

**Psalms 135:6–8 (NKJV)**

- <sup>6</sup> Whatever the Lord pleases He does,  
In heaven and in earth,  
In the seas and in all deep places.
- <sup>7</sup> He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of  
the earth;  
He makes lightning for the rain;  
He brings the wind out of His treasures.
- <sup>8</sup> He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt,  
Both of man and beast.

**Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

## God is Sovereign over all Authorities

### **Romans 13:1** (NKJV)

13... For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

### **John 19:11** (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.

### **Proverbs 19:21** (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> There are many plans in a man’s heart,  
Nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.

### **Proverbs 21:1** (NKJV)

**21** The king’s heart *is* in the hand of the Lord,  
*Like* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

### **Daniel 4:35** (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing;  
He does according to His will in the army of heaven  
And *among* the inhabitants of the earth.  
No one can restrain His hand  
Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

## **He is Sovereign over evil, crime, hatred, murder and suffering**

### **Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

### **Acts 2:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

**Exodus 4:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

**Romans 9:17–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “*For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.*” <sup>18</sup> Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

**Genesis 45:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

**Genesis 50:19–20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

**Psalms 76:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Surely the wrath of man shall praise You;

With the remainder of wrath You shall gird  
Yourself.

### **Proverbs 16:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> The Lord has made all for Himself,  
Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

### **Judges 14:1–4 (NKJV)**

**14** Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.

<sup>2</sup> So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”

<sup>3</sup> Then his father and mother said to him, “*Is there* no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?”

And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.”

<sup>4</sup> But his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

### **Exodus 4:10–11 (NKJV)**



<sup>10</sup> Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

<sup>11</sup> So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the Lord?

### **Amos 3:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid?

If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done *it*?

### **Isaiah 45:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> I form the light and create darkness,  
I make peace and create calamity;  
I, the Lord, do all these *things*.’

### **Isaiah 10:5–6 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger  
And the staff in whose hand is My indignation.

<sup>6</sup> I will send him against an ungodly nation,  
And against the people of My wrath  
I will give him charge,  
To seize the spoil, to take the prey,

And to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

John 9:2–3 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

## **He is Sovereign over Satan and His demons.**

**1 Chronicles 21:1 (NKJV)**

**21** Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

**2 Samuel 24:1 (NKJV)**

**24** Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”

**2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh

was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup> Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

### **Revelation 13:5–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

### **Job 1:6–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

<sup>9</sup> So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup> Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

<sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

## He is Sovereign over the Details of Life

### James 4:13–16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; <sup>14</sup> whereas you do

not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup> Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Proverbs 16:33 (NKJV)

<sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap,  
But its every decision *is* from the Lord.

## **Arthur W. Pink**

No revolving world, no shining of star, no storm, no creature moves, no actions of men, no errands of angels, no deeds of devil—nothing in all the vast universe can come to pass otherwise than God has eternally purposed. Here is a foundation of faith. Here is a resting place for the intellect. Here is an anchor for the soul, both sure and steadfast. It is not blind fate, unbridled evil, man or devil, but the Lord Almighty who is ruling the world, ruling it according to His own good pleasure and for His own eternal glory.”

— **Arthur W. Pink, The Sovereignty of God**

“A true recognition of God's sovereignty will avow God's perfect right to do with us as He wills. The one who bows to the pleasure of the Almighty will acknowledge His absolute right to do with us as seemeth Him good. If He chooses to send poverty, sickness, domestic bereavements, even while the heart is bleeding at every pore, it will say, Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right! Often there will be a struggle, for the carnal mind remains in the believer to the end of his earthly pilgrimage. But though there may be a conflict within his breast, nevertheless, to the one who has really yielded himself to this blessed truth there will presently be heard that Voice saying, as of old it said to the turbulent Gennesaret, "Peace be still"; and the tempestuous flood within will be quieted and the subdued soul will lift a tearful but confident eye to Heaven and say, "Thy will be done."

— **Arthur W. Pink, The Sovereignty of God**

This is why Jesus Had Peace, and Say in John  
14:27 Let not your heart be troubled  
Mark 4:36–39 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

<sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “**Peace, be still!**” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

This is why Paul had Peace  
and could say

### **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Charles Wesley, the famous hymn writer, summed up the God-focused nature of the Christian’s peace with these fitting words:

I rest beneath the Almighty’s shade,  
My griefs expire, my troubles cease;  
Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed,  
Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.

