

How to have true
peace and joy:
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The first reason why people today lack the peace and joy of God is because they may not have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of all peace and joy in a believer's life. There are many so-called Christians who have not accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, and they are still walking in the flesh. They have not trusted Jesus Christ for their salvation and neither have they repented of their sins. Those who do not have the Holy Spirit do not walk according to the Spirit, but the flesh. Romans 8:8-9 says, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

When you know Jesus Christ, you are filled with His peace and joy daily because of the relationship you have with Him. When your mind is focused on Christ, He fills you with His perfect peace. Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." You may experience peace in your hands or in your mind, and that is from God. It is a peace that can only come from His presence and not from the world. John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not

as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

When you have the Spirit of God in you, you grow and develop the fruit of the Spirit when you submit yourself to Him and His will for your life. Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” The fruit of the Spirit comes from a loving relationship with God our Creator. When you abide in Christ, you will bear much lasting fruit. You will also produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life through your intimacy with Christ. John 15:5 says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

A Christian may not have peace with a particular person, a job, or a home. That person, place, or thing may not be sent from God, but from the enemy. You may go through stress, fatigue, pain, or suffering when you are around a certain person, place, or thing. The enemy wants to keep you in a place that you do not belong in, or he wants to keep attached to certain

people that are only going to pull you down and push you further away from God and His plan for your life. God wants to release you from a particular person, job, or environment. When He does, you will have so much peace and joy, and you will feel free at last.

God knows that you cannot grow or reach your highest potential in certain environments or around certain people. So, God will take things and people away from you that you may love. It can hurt at times, but it is for our best. God will remove you from the people and environments that you thought you needed, because you may have outgrown those spaces. Those spaces or jobs may have been for a season. God used those jobs and people in that season for a purpose. That purpose may have been to refine you. But when that season is over, He brings you out of those environments and out from among those people.

Certain environments, jobs, and people may have not given you peace. You may have had stress, fatigue, or pain in those environments or at those jobs. 1

Corinthians 15:33 says, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." So, God will

put you in a place where you do have peace and where you do belong. God will put you in a place where you feel valued, loved, and appreciated. He will put people of peace around you who are sent from Him. These people of peace will help you to get to where you need to be in life. They will help you to grow closer to Jesus Christ and fulfill your purpose. Those people are worth that wait rather than settling. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

Another reason we may not have peace in our lives is when we choose to do our own will and not God's will. Luke 22:42 says, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." There are times when God wants us to give up certain things and people in our lives that may be outside His will for us. That could be a person, a job, a home, a friendship, or a relationship. When we submit to Him and let go, that is when we find true peace and joy. When we choose to let go of what is not meant for us, that is when we are in the will of God for our lives. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Also, we may not have peace when we are not fulfilling our purpose in life. When we are not using our gifts and talents, we may not have peace and joy. But when we serve God and others, we will experience the true joy and peace that comes from our relationship with Him. Serving others brings a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. When you serve God without being seen or recognized, that is when you will get rewards because your work is going unnoticed. When you know your work is done unto God and not unto man, you will have peace as well. You will also have a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction that only comes from God and doing what he has called you to do.

Colossians 3:23-24 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Another example of not having peace is when we try to control and manipulate situations to work in our favor, or we try to control people and circumstances. But we may just need to allow God to be in control of our lives. We may need to submit our lives and our will to Him.

We may want to be in control of our lives because it makes us feel superior or important, but that can be a form of pride. We may want to be in control of our lives, because we feel like God will not step in for us and do what He can do. We are showing God that we do not trust in Him and His will and plan. Therefore, we try to do it ourselves in our own strength. But God wants us to take our foot off the gas and allow Him to do what He wants to do in our lives if we submit to His authority. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

