

Flow

Part Six: *peace*

December 24, 2023

Grace is God favoring us with good things we don't deserve and could never earn (Eph. 2:5). God gives us grace because He loves us, He wants to save us, He wants to use us as examples of His grace throughout eternity, and He wants us to complete the good works He created us to do. Today, I'm going to show you why peace is a characteristic of a grace-filled life.

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ...

- **The prophet Isaiah predicted the Messiah would be born of a virgin.**

"The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')." (Isaiah 7:14, NLT)

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!" (Isaiah 9:6–7, NLT)

Shortly before Christ's birth...

- **The angel Gabriel told Joseph and Mary they would fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.**

"This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:18–23, NLT)

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God." (Lk 1:26–35, NLT)

On the night Christ was born...

- **Gabriel told some shepherds that Isaiah's prophecy had been fulfilled.**

“Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” (Luke 2:7–14, NLT)

Isaiah said the Messiah would be called the Prince of Peace, and Gabriel told the shepherds that the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, was going to bring peace on earth to those who receive God’s grace.

How did the Prince of Peace bring peace to us?

1st – Jesus brought us peace with God.

“He (Jesus) was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised to life to make us right with God. Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” (Romans 4:25-5:1, NLT)

The holy Son of God came to save us from the penalty and power of our sins! He died on the cross so we could have peace with God (Col. 1:19-20). Those who trust the Prince of Peace for salvation have peace with God.

2nd – Jesus brought us peace for our hearts and minds.

We live in a broken world full of sin and selfishness. Life on Earth is full of trials and sorrow. But Jesus promised the gift of peace to all who believe in Him.

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27, NLT)

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, NLT)

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then, you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:6–7)

Prince of Peace in Hebrew is *Sar Shalom*, which means “the ruler of peace.” As the ruler of peace, Jesus gives the gift of peace to all those who trust Him for wisdom and strength. Grace-filled Christians live in peace because they follow the Ruler of Peace!