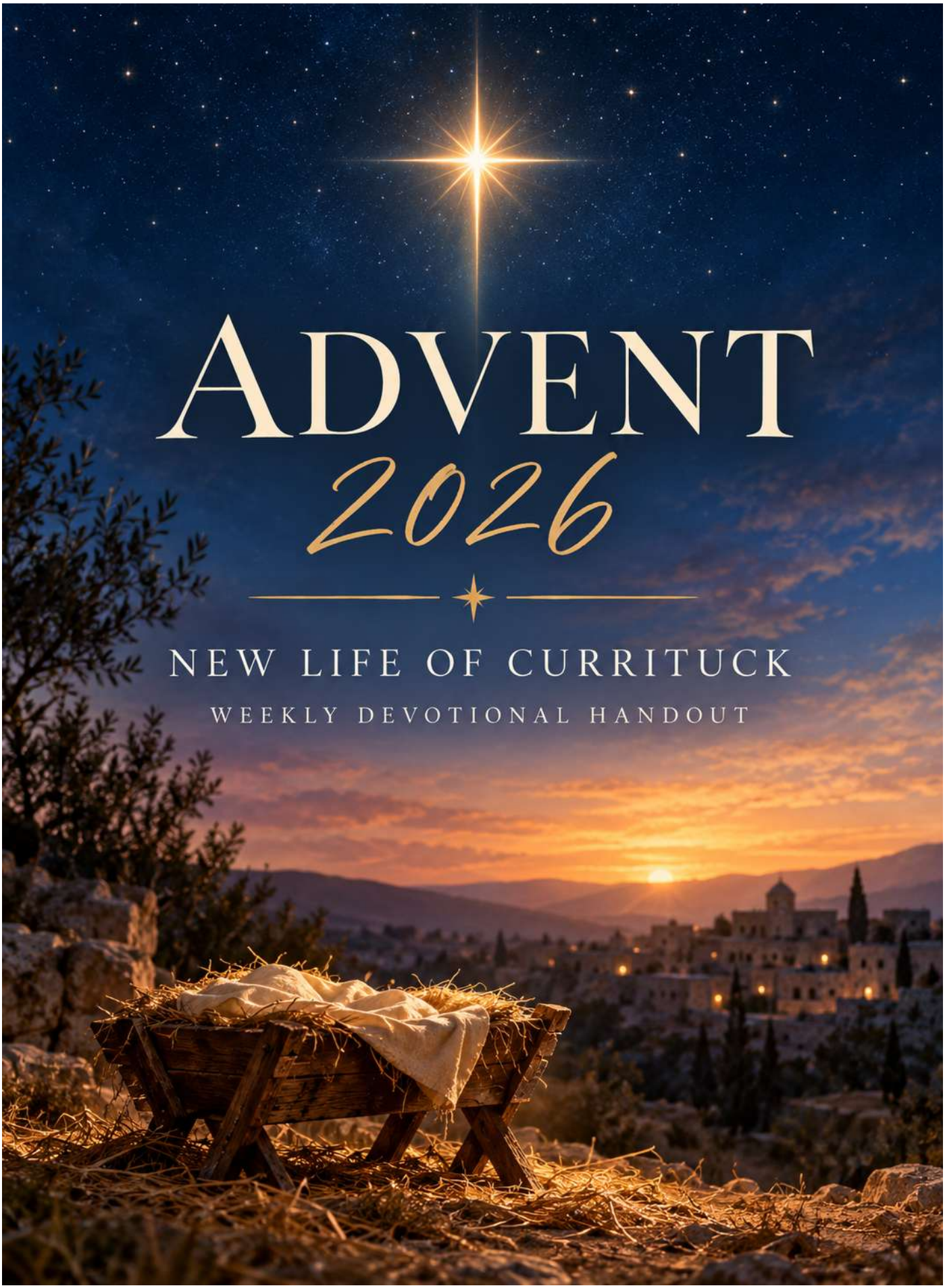

ADVENT
2026
NEW LIFE OF CURRITUCK
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL HANDOUT

Welcome to Advent 2026

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

For 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.

As we enter into the Christmas season, we are going to focus on Isaiah 9:6 and the names given to Jesus in Scripture. His character and attributes are seen in His names. As we learn these names, we are able to deepen our understanding of Christ, while also seeing how Christ came in human flesh to be an active part of our lives.

Israel and Judah had forgotten the promise given to Abraham and found themselves compromising with the world around them. They turned away from God and found themselves seeking help through other means, such as idols, mediums, self-sufficiency, and self-indulgence. There was a remnant of people that the Lord preserved during the time of Jesus' birth, and today we believe that there is a remnant that the Lord is coming back for again.

We pray that this study will revive us, continue to set us apart from the world around us, and draw us close to the Savior who came just for us.

New Life of Currituck

Christ-Centered • Family-Oriented • Community-Minded

Week 1 - “Wonderful Counselor”

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:24
Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.

Psalm 16:7
I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

Hebrews 4:14-16
Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

James 1:5
If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Psalm 25:5
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Questions

The Lord is Wonderful, beyond human comprehension and ability, and all that He does is wonderful. We are to ask Him to open our eyes, to be able to see wonderful things in His Word and all around us. Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor! His Word instructs, guides us, corrects, challenges us, and gives us wisdom. We can trust His counsel in every situation, because He is ALL-knowing. His Spirit counsels us, encourages us, strengthens us, and directs us for all our life decisions.

What comes to mind when you think of a counselor? Perhaps you think of someone you confide in or someone who gives you advice. Maybe a lawyer or a therapist. Do you come to the Lord to ask for advice and wisdom regarding life's decisions? Do you trust God to help when you ask?

1. How have you experienced God's wonders and counsel in your life?

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2. What do you need to unload onto your Wonderful Counselor?

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3. Do you have a situation that you need to seek His wisdom and strategy about?

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Reflection

The Lord wants us to come to Him for counsel, guidance, wisdom, perspective, and even correction. In all situations, we should seek God's advice and direction first. We should run to Him as often and as fast as we run to each other for advice. He waits for us to approach Him so that He can listen and help us. He is accessible and available.

During Christmas, we can rejoice and reflect that He came as a man, to feel all that we would feel. As our High Priest, He is able to identify with us and, therefore, He is able to counsel us, not because He is a distant God but because He is a present God who knows, has felt, and understands all that we feel and struggle with. His Word, through the Holy Spirit, settles all disputes and struggles that this world would use to try to rob us of the peace, joy, and love that we find in Jesus through the cross.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you that you are Wonderful; that your ways are wonderful. We thank you that we are able to approach you as our Counselor and High Priest. Thank you for coming as a man, to feel all that we would feel and encounter, and for becoming our Wonderful Counselor. There isn't anything that we can't bring to you. You understand betrayal, hurt, sorrow, pain, and accusations. Forgive me, Lord, for not coming to you first for advice and counsel. Forgive me, Lord, for the things I have kept from sharing with you. Lord, forgive me for the times I trade your counsel with the things of this world. Lord, may we come to you with all our problems. May you remind us that you are close and waiting to hear from us. Guide us through your Word; give us wisdom and direction.

Week 2 - “Mighty God”

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:31-37
What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Deuteronomy 10:17
For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

Psalm 89:8
Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Psalm 24:8
Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

2 Chronicles 25:8
“Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow.”

Psalm 50:1-15
The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
  speaks and summons the earth
  from the rising of the sun to where it sets.
From Zion, perfect in beauty,
  God shines forth.
Our God comes
  and will not be silent;

a fire devours before him,
and around him a tempest rages.
He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:
“Gather to me this consecrated people,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
for he is a God of justice.
“Listen, my people, and I will speak;
I will testify against you, Israel:
I am God, your God.
I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices
or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.
I have no need of a bull from your stall
or of goats from your pens,
for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know every bird in the mountains,
and the insects in the fields are mine.
If I were hungry I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
“Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Revelation 1:18

“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

Revelation 21:1-4 - A New Heaven and a New Earth

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God

himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Questions

What picture comes to mind when you hear “mighty”? Do you think of a warrior in battle? A soldier strong and courageous?

1. Does reflecting on how mighty God is change how you see your problems?

2. How does knowing “God is for you” change the way you think about yourself and your circumstances?

3. Is there an area of your life or a situation that you have not surrendered or asked God for help in?

Reflection

God Is Mighty. He is the one who created the heavens and the earth. He commands existence with His words. He tells the waters where to stop. He splits the Red Sea, walks on the water, brings down nations, commands the winds and waves… and He has numbered every hair on your head. He stopped the sun from going down during the battle between the Amorites and Israel until Israel won (Joshua 10:9-14). He brought the walls of Jericho down with a trumpet sound. God won the battle for Gideon, showing him that He was more powerful with only 300 soldiers against Midian's 135,000 soldiers (Judges 7-8). King Hezekiah prayed for help against the Assyrian army. An angel was sent and killed 185,000 soldiers in one night (2 Kings 19:32-37). God won the biggest battle of all time: the battle of death itself. Jesus rose from the dead and took the keys over death and Hades. God is still the same Mighty God yesterday, today and forever. He created all, and in His second coming, He will create a new heaven and earth. The same Mighty God who rose from the dead is more than able to intervene in your situation. He has all authority, dominion, and power. There is nothing too big for our Mighty God. Reflect on His majesty, greatness, and authority! Allow Him to enter into your current situation and surrender it to the KING of KINGS, LORD OF LORDS; he is our MIGHTY GOD.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that you are the Mighty God. You win all battles. All authority is yours. We know that you are more than able to fight for us and have the victory. We thank you that you came as a man to win the ultimate battle over death itself. You took the keys of death and hell, and we await your second coming, when you defeat Satan for all eternity. We thank you that you're fighting for us and beside us. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have not trusted you in times of need. Forgive us for not asking for help and for thinking we could fight alone. Lord, forgive us for the times that we make you smaller than you are, for the times we don't acknowledge your mightiness, greatness, and fullness of all authority. We surrender our struggles to our Mighty God!

Week 3 - “Everlasting Father”

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 33:27
The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, ‘Destroy them!’

Psalm 90:2
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalm 145:13
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

Isaiah 40:28
Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Psalm 48:14
For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

John 3:16-17
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Daniel 7:13-14
“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

Daniel 12:1-3 - The End Times
“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

Romans 8:38-39
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 1:1-5 - The Word Became Flesh
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 14:15-24
“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”
Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”
Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”

Questions

What image do you picture when you think of a father? Perhaps, when you were a child, he was big and strong, could fix anything, and was the closest thing to a real-life superhero you could imagine. Maybe your earthly father was none of those things, but your heavenly Father is all those things and more. As you get older, that mystery of the "superhero dad" starts to fade. Maybe you see some flaws in character, maybe his strength fades …. but God is the EVERLASTING father. That means His character never falters, His strength never fades, His love never runs out. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

1. What do you think of when you think of God being your Father?

2. If God is our Father, how should that affect the way we live?

3. Reflect this week on God's everlasting nature and everlasting love for you.

Reflection

Genesis 1:1 states, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” That word God is Elohim. As Christians, we understand God as the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From the beginning, the Trinity was. John tells us Jesus was with God from the beginning (the Word). He is the Creator, the Alpha and the Omega, The Beginning and the End, The First and the Last, and The Ancient of Days. His Kingdom is eternal. His living Word is eternal. Hebrews 4:12 says that “the word of God is alive and active,” because the words that He spoke are still living and changing lives today. Jesus came as God in human flesh. Jesus is the revelation of God. He is the WORD. The Holy Spirit that lives in us is the Living Christ. We don’t serve a dead God. Jesus is the ONLY GOD who died on a cross, was buried in a grave, BUT ROSE AGAIN, and who is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He has always been and will always be. He is an everlasting Father. He is the one who created us. He breathed His very breath of life into Adam (Genesis 2:7). We are created in God’s image. He is our Creator, our Father. That word Father is personal. Intimate. Close by. We are created for a purpose and a destiny. Since God is eternal, His love for us is eternal. God loved us so much that He sent His Only Son to die for us to save us from death and sin. Just as our last name identifies our earthly family, so should our adoption into Christ’s family do the same. We should be Christ’s image bearers, a reflection of Jesus to all who see and hear us. We should reflect Christ as our Father. His love for us is endless. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. But we must make the choice to accept His love and follow Him as our Lord and Savior. He is eternal, and because He is eternal, there is an eternity. There is no limbo or waiting place. There is no reincarnation or utter silence in the grave. When we die, we either enter eternity with Jesus or we enter an eternity without Jesus in Hell.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that during this Christmas season, we can reflect on You coming down to earth as God in the flesh. We thank you for loving us so much. Our human minds can’t always comprehend that extent of love. You stepped out of glory to become a personal, intimate God who not only walked this earth, but was killed and rose again, all for us! You are eternal. Death could not stop you. There is no end to you. We thank you that we do not serve a dead God, but that you are alive and still moving in our lives. Lord, we know that from the beginning, you have existed, and we also know that there is an eternity that you have prepared for us. Prepare our hearts for that eternity. Lord, forgive us for the times that we have not reflected you to others. Equip us on this earth to be your example and your image bearers -- to walk, talk, and act like Your children; to reflect you as our Father, Creator, and Sustainer.

Week 4 “Prince of Peace”

Scripture Reading

John 16:33
“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.”

Psalm 29:11
The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 34:14
Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Psalm 119:165
Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Isaiah 26:3
You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Matthew 5:9
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

John 14:26-28
“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”

Galatians 5:22-23
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Philippians 4:6-8
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Romans 8:5-7
Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Romans 5:1-11 - Peace and Hope
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Revelation 21:1-8 - A New Heaven and a New Earth

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Questions

What does PEACE mean to you? Maybe it’s a gentle breeze in summer while you’re sitting in nature. Maybe it’s a calmness that fills your mind while reflecting on God’s majesty. Maybe it’s just the absence of active battles in your life.

Think about how Christ brought peace between us and God.

Think about how Christ brings peace to our daily lives. Who does He use to bring peace to your life?

1. How can you have peace even though the storms of life continue?

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2. How can you actively pursue peace in your own life?

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3. What things in your life rob you of your peace?

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Reflection

Christ came to this earth to be our peacemaker, not just in our personal lives, but to also be the peacemaker between us and God. He reconciled us to God. He broke the barrier of sin that separated us from God, tore the veil, and became the bridge that now allows us direct access into His presence. Now when God looks on us, He sees the blood of Jesus that covers us, for those who are in Christ Jesus. He bought that peace with His life and sacrifice.

He also became the peacemaker in our own lives. He sent the Holy Spirit to come and live inside our hearts. He states in John that "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." He had just promised the Holy Spirit, who would dwell within us. Through the Holy Spirit, we experience the peace of Jesus in our lives. Jesus is the one who commands the storms, who the winds and waves obey. He is the Prince of Peace. In Him, we can rest. We can rest because He fights for us. He defends us. He is our Good Shepherd that goes before us and prepares the way. He is our joy and strength when we need it. Christ has overcome this world and all evil, and because of that, we can have peace in any situation. Peace is not the absence of a storm raging outside; it is not allowing that storm to enter our hearts and affect our lives. A boat does not sink because there is a storm. The boat sinks because

water gets inside the boat and takes it down. We must allow Christ to be our Peace. We must surrender all of life's troubles to Him and then rest in the knowledge that He is GOD -- all-powerful, in control of all, all-knowing, all-seeing.

Then there are times when we must actively pursue peace in our lives. Whether that is silencing other voices, removing sin or other things that cause distress or pain in our lives, or simply getting more into the Word. The Lord's Word brings peace to our lives and situations. It calms our spirits, hearts, and minds. The psalms are full of comparisons to peace in our lives and following God's Word and commands. His Word is a guide and lamp unto our feet. When we walk according to His Word and are obedient to Him, it brings peace, not that we won't encounter struggles or hardships, but that our soul can be at peace.

Lastly, Christ is the Prince of Peace, because there will be a time when He will return and will bring peace to a new world. Revelation tells us that all will be destroyed, sin defeated forever, and we will live in the new heaven and earth with no more pain, sorrow, or tears. There will just be fullness of joy, peace, and the constant presence of Jesus Christ. We will ultimately dwell with Him forever!!

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for coming as a man, a Savior, to bring peace into my life. Thank you that through your sacrifice, I can now have peace with God. Thank you that my debt has been paid and now I can enter God's presence directly and have intimacy with you. Thank you for not leaving us alone. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to bring peace into our lives. Lord, forgive me for the times I have allowed the world to steal my peace and for not resting in you. Lord, forgive me when I have allowed sin to rule my life instead of resting in the peace and freedom you gave me over sin through the cross. Lord, I know this life is not easy. There is pain and suffering, and I know that following you does not mean I will not suffer. I know that I will suffer for your name's sake, but I also know that I can have peace because you are with me. You are my peace because I rest in knowing that you are God and I am not. I have peace in my life because I know that you are for me and not against me; that you lead me in paths of righteousness and remain with me through every danger. I have peace because I know that you are my Shepherd that goes before me. I can have peace because I know that no matter how hard this life gets, you are coming back for me. ***You Are My Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

Notes: _____

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel”
(which means “God with us”).
Matthew 1:23 (NIV)



*May Jesus, our **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace**, fill your hearts and homes with His wisdom, strength, love, and peace this Christmas season.*

May you carry the wonder of His presence into the new year, reflecting His light and sharing His love with those around you.

Merry Christmas from your New Life family!

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