

A Sermon Transcript Based On Ephesians 1:1-2...

Our Past Is Forgiven. Our Present Is Empowered. Our Future Is Secured.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD



WHEN YOU REST IN GOD'S GRACE
YOU WILL FEEL GOD'S PEACE

Jimmy D. Brown

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When You Rest In God's Grace, You Will Feel God's Peace

In John 14:27, Jesus said this...

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Even though Jesus said this, our hearts are often troubled and afraid, aren't they?

Because the truth is, there are constant threats to our peace. In this world, we will have troubles.

Instead of feeling peace, we often feel guilt and shame for our past, stress and conflict in our present, or worry and fear over our future.

But Jesus entered our world of troubles so we can have our peace restored, both now and forever.

Actually, it's even better than that.

We can have HIS peace in our lives. How?

By earning it? No!

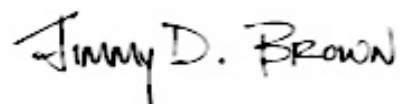
By deserving it? No!

By receiving it? Yes!

Jesus gives it to us. He paid for it by His own finished work on the cross. It's a gift of God's grace to us.

And when we rest in that grace, we will feel that peace.

All for Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy D. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

[Begin Sermon Transcript]

Do you guys remember *"Crazy Calls"* from the 1980s? It was a set of seven pre-recorded messages on a cassette that you loaded to your answering machine, and one of them would play when someone called you, and you didn't answer your phone.

There was, *"Nobody's Home. Nobody's Home."* And then there was, *"What you thought you were doing was calling a friend, but what you've actually done is bought a one-way ticket to The Answering Machine Zone."*

And, of course, my favorite: *"Wait for the beep, you gotta leave your name, you gotta leave your number ... wait for the beep."*

How many remember those? How many of you younger people even know what a cassette or an answering machine is?

Well, recently Crazy Calls came up in a conversation between Paula and me. She said *"Nobody's home"* and *"wait for the beep"* were one single message track. I said, *"No, these were two different message tracks."*

We debated about it, but finally just kind of *"agreed to disagree."*

Only I knew I was right. And I couldn't let it go at just me knowing it. I had to make sure she knew it too, even if that meant disturbing the peace and making trouble.

This was not a particularly wise move on my part. But I searched YouTube, found the original commercial, and proudly showed her the error of her ways. For the remainder of the day, I was acutely aware of the error of MY ways.

That night when we went to bed, I tried to snuggle and have a little lovey-dovey time, and when I leaned in for a kiss, what I got in return from her was, *"Nobody's Home! Nobody's Home!"*

Here's the thing: there are constant threats to our peace. The peace we have in our relationships, in our circumstances, in our hearts. In this world, we will have troubles.

Sometimes we will be the cause of them – like I was that day – and sometimes we won't be, but no matter how tough we are, careful we are, indifferent we are, protected we are, right we are, there are real threats to our peace.

Things like a health issue, a financial crisis, a broken relationship, a mistake made, a sin committed, a workplace problem, some bad news – there are plenty of troubles, right?

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Instead of feeling peace, we often feel guilt and shame for our past, stress and conflict in our present, or worry and fear over our future.

But Jesus entered our world of troubles so we can have our peace restored, both now and forever.

If you have your Bibles, turn with me to Ephesians chapter one. We're going to read verses 1 and 2 as our starting point for today's message.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, here's where we're going in our time together, here's what I want you to take away from today's message:

When you rest in God's grace, you will feel God's peace.

God's grace and God's peace always go together, but grace always comes first. You have to rest in God's grace in order to feel God's peace.

So, let me tell you, kind of map out, where we're going as we unpack this main point.

First, we're going to define "grace" and then "peace" as we look at some things the Bible says about these two things.

After that, we're going to draw some summary conclusions for why resting in God's grace makes us feel God's peace.

Finally, we're going to talk about THE most important thing about all of this for you this morning.

Now, let me answer a quick question before we dig in. Ephesians 1:1-2, which is a greeting, seems like kind of an odd place to choose for a one-off message.

Out of the entire Bible, how did I land here? The first reason is because I knew that I wanted to talk about grace.

My personal mission statement in life is:

*"I exist to know Jesus and make Him known
so that God is honored in us and we are happy in Him."*

That's what I am after in everything I do ... an honored God and happy people.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

That's why I'm here this morning ... I want God to be honored and you to be happy.

With that as my life's purpose, what do I most want people to know about Jesus that will enable them to find their happiness in God so that He is honored? Grace.

It is the fountainhead from which everything else that is good springs forth and overflows into our lives.

Every blessing received. Every burden lifted. Every benefit gained.

Every single thing that God offers us now and forever by inviting us into life with Him is secured by Jesus and offered to us freely by grace.

The second reason is because I just finished studying and writing about Ephesians. So, it was really fresh in my mind and heart when Barry asked me to speak today.

And, while "Grace to you and peace from God" is a short, simple, standard greeting that Paul uses, it is not a small thing.

This has huge implications for our lives. And so if I have a Sunday to share with you guys, this is a great place to start.

So, what is grace? Let me give you a definition and then we'll see what the Bible says about it...

Grace is the unearned, undeserved free gift of God's forgiveness and favor.

No matter who you are. No matter what you've done. No matter how big your need. God's grace is always enough.

Even though there are moments when your sin, your struggles and your situation may get the best of you, if you are trusting in Jesus, it is simply impossible for you to out-sin, out-run, out-last, out-need, or out-hope God's grace.

You will never find yourself in a place where God has not already declared, "My grace is sufficient for you." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

You can't afford it; but it's already paid for. You can't earn it; but it's freely given. You can't secure it; but it's always available to you.

All you have to do is ... Want it. Ask for it. Receive it. Enjoy it. Live by it. Praise God for it.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Grace isn't about our doing or our deserving; it's about God's giving... so that He is honored in us and we are happy in Him.

Grace is the unearned, undeserved free gift of God's forgiveness and favor.

So, let me build a little profile of grace from just a few of the many verses in the Bible that talk about grace so you can see where this definition comes from...

Romans 8:32 says...

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Grace is forgiveness... God is just and cannot simply ignore our sin; He is also the Justifier Who sent Jesus to be punished in our place in order to pardon us. He did not spare His own Son.

Grace is favor ... God is the source of every good thing in our lives.

Who we are, what we do and what we have – if it's good, it's from God. He graciously gives us all things.

What the Bible is saying here is this: If God sacrificed His own Son to pay for our sin so we can have eternal life in heaven, then of course He is going to provide all that we need in everyday life until we get there.

Grace saves. Grace supplies.

And did you hear the key words? "Gave" Him up for us all. "Graciously give" us all things. Forgiveness and favor are free gifts.

Romans 3:23-34, 25b says...

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... to be received by faith.

To understand forgiving grace, we have to understand two words: nothing and everything.

As sinful people, we can do nothing to meet God's standards, avoid God's wrath, deserve God's blessing, earn God's forgiveness, or enter God's heaven. We fall short.

But God did everything by sending Jesus to forgive us by making payment for our sin and making us

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

right with God. We are justified and redeemed by grace.

It is a gift ... we don't earn a gift; we receive it freely by faith. Jesus paid for it.

This is the reality of grace: God doesn't help those who help themselves. He helps those who cannot help themselves. And that is every single one of us.

Philippians 4:19 says...

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

And then 2 Corinthians 9:8 says...

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

When Paul was encouraged by the generosity of the Philippians and was encouraging the Corinthians to be generous, he reminded them both of how God operates by grace to supply everything we need.

And the language just speaks of GOD'S lavish generosity, doesn't it?

Supply every need. According to his riches. God is able. To make all grace abound. All sufficiency in all things at all times. It just rings with God's superabundant grace.

As we faithfully steward what God has given to us, He will continue giving to us. We will lack nothing we need. He will withhold nothing that is good for us.

God is the supplier, and God's supply is inexhaustible.

Everything we really need will really be supplied. Not maybe. Not probably. Definitely. God will provide for every need.

Not some of them. Not most of them. All of them, without exception. He may provide it differently than we expect, but He will provide.

Hebrews 4:16 says...

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Grace fits what we need and arrives when we need it.

Neither the strength of the temptation nor the size of the trial will ever be a match for the well-timed help that God sends in the many moments that are too much for us to handle alone.

There is no weapon too powerful. There is no mountain too big. There is no task too great. There is no situation too hopeless. There is no adversary too insurmountable. Not. For. Him.

When we feel like giving in to temptation or giving up in a trial, that's when we can know for certain that grace is there.

We have an open invitation to confidently go to God in our time of need knowing that He will either help us escape it or endure it.

We are never helpless against temptation, and we are never hopeless in a trial when there is a throne of grace for us to run to for help.

Alright, one more...

1 Corinthians 15:10 says...

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Grace is not cruise control. Ours is not a set it and forget it relationship in which God does all the work, and we do none of it.

He does all of the things that only He can do and enables us to do all of the things that He wants us to do.

How do we respond to grace? We. Work. Hard. We work hard to be who God called us to be, and we work hard to do what God has called us to do.

We work hard to know Him, follow Him, proclaim Him, enjoy Him and glorify Him.

We work hard to use our time wisely, do good works, make our lives count, shine light in dark places, love one another, show people what Jesus is like and richly enjoy and share the blessings God gives us.

We rely on His transforming and equipping power and provision every step of the way, but we get busy working.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Grace doesn't make us lazy; it makes us want to take action in fulfilling the purpose for our lives that God has for us.

Listen... Grace isn't opposed to our effort; it's opposed to us trying to earn what we've been freely given. We don't work hard TO receive God's grace; we work hard BECAUSE we receive God's grace.

Now, there are many, many more verses that I wish we had time to cover, but Barry said I couldn't keep you guys until dinnertime, so we better move on to peace.

But I hope you are getting just a little picture of this big thing called grace.

What does God do through grace? He forgives us by grace. He supplies us by grace. He empowers us by grace. He delivers us by grace. He transforms us by grace. He helps us by grace. He favors us by grace.

What is going on in your life today? If something good is happening, it's by grace. If something bad is being handled, it's by grace.

That sunset, steak and surprise text from your friend. That's by grace. The trial you're getting through and the trouble you got through. Yep, grace.

Your ability, opportunity and community ... grace, grace, grace.

The tears wiped away and the smiles of the day. Grace on top of grace.

Beating hearts, peaceful sleep, acts of service, growing pains, friends that care, strength to continue, paid bills, lessons learned, fresh water, hugs, faith, hope and love and 10,000 more things.

You can't look in any direction without seeing the evidence of God's grace.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

James 1:17 says...

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.

God doesn't owe us any of this, but He delights to give it to us.

And I'm saying, *"When you rest in God's grace, you will feel God's peace."*

Now, let's talk about peace...

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Shortly after my wife, Paula, and I were married, I was backing out of the driveway with her on the front porch when she mouthed the words, *"I love you."*

I just kind of instinctively held up two fingers as if to say, *"I love you too."* That became a fun way that we started communicating our love and affection for each other.

Thousands of times since, we'd flash those two fingers to say ... *I love you.*

However, that sweet symbolic gesture took on a new meaning a few years later during a vacation.

We had been driving a lot and were starting to get on each other's nerves. The road had gotten long and we were tired and frustrated.

At first it was small things, and it ended up with us arguing over whether or not she would kill me and bury me in a shallow grave along the Interstate. I was against it ... she was for it.

Finally, we both had enough. I said, *"Let's agree on this: we will each have an opportunity to express ourselves.....but after two exchanges, the subject is closed and not another peep about it can be made."* She agreed.

Later in the day, I made a comment, she replied, and I was about to explain further when she held up two fingers and said, *"That's 2! That's 2! You can't say another word! Hahahahaha."*

"But, Paula, let me just" ...

She holds up two fingers ... "Nobody's home! Nobody's home!"

It was then that we started laughing about how we had combined the two meanings of our special sign:

I love you ... be quiet!

We still use it today.

Mainly for I love you, occasionally for shut up.

You know, sometimes when I'm not resting in God's grace, and I'm not feeling God's peace because I'm worried or anxious or fearful about something – sometimes in moments like that, it's like God just extends two fingers down from heaven to say, *"I love you ... be quiet."*

"Be quiet in your mind, be quiet in your heart, be quiet in your soul. You've forgotten how much I love you."

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

And that “2” becomes a great big peace sign for me. And it can for you too.

What is peace? Here’s the definition we’re going to work from...

Peace is inner calm despite outer conflict because of what Jesus has done for us which shapes what we do with others.

Now, that’s a mouthful, I know.

And, honestly, that’s not all that Biblical peace encompasses, but it’s what we are going to cover today. Peace with God, peace of God and peace with one another.

Again, we’re going to build a small profile of peace from what the Bible says about it.

Romans 5:1 says...

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Before we are at peace with God, we are at war with God. Our sin creates conflict between us and Him, namely over which one of us has the right to rule over our lives.

We resist Him. We rebel against Him. We refuse to obey Him.

There is hostility between us because we don’t want what God wants. And while God could have destroyed us, He sent Jesus to the cross to meet the conditions of peace for us.

When we put our faith in Him, our sin is removed and so is God’s judgement and wrath. No longer His enemy; now part of His family.

When Jesus said, “*It is finished,*” part of what He meant is, “*the war is over.*”

He puts an end to the hostility. He puts an end to the conflict. He puts an end to the sin that separates us.

We are justified by faith – declared righteous – just as if we had never sinned and just as if we had always obeyed.

Instead of rebelling against God, we start following Him in faith and love because we know that He knows better how to live our lives than we do. He’s no longer our judge; He’s our Father.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Because we have peace with God, we can have the peace of God....

Philippians 4:6,7 says...

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Do not be anxious about anything. Not bad news. Not bad circumstances. Not bad things. Not bad people.

What are we to do instead? Talk to God. Thank God. Trust God. Real peace can be ours even when life seems out of control when we have faith that God is in control.

God's peace doesn't come instead of troubles; it comes in spite of troubles.

God's peace doesn't guard your life from worrisome things; it guards your heart and mind from worrying about things.

Now, we don't ignore our troubles as if they aren't there or won't harm us or don't require action. We just have confidence in God to help us handle them.

A supernatural peace that doesn't seem to be possible given what is happening in our lives calms us and reassures us when we know in our hearts and minds that God rules over our lives for good.

Now, we need to keep coming back to this, don't we? We get amnesia. We forget this.

We need to remember that God never freaks out. There is never panic in heaven. Things never start to unravel in such a way that even a single situation in all of the universe is beyond His sovereign rule.

Even the evil things done by His enemies to His people will be turned around to serve His purposes.

Things are often out of our control, but they are never out of His.

And when we remember that, then we can start to experience peace with each other...

Colossians 3:15 says...

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

And Romans 12:18 says...

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

When the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, it stops hostility, resolves conflict, settles disputes and mediates differences between us and others. How?

By bringing us together through what Jesus has done for us and said to us to make peace possible.

Peace is precious. Jesus died to bring us peace. He suffered terribly on the cross so we might be united, not divided.

How we interact with each other should not dishonor His sacrifice, but glorify it.

We should never compromise on keeping His commandments just to keep peace. But we should greatly value it like Jesus does so that what we do keeps the peace He paid for.

Listen... You cannot make all people live peaceably with you. You are not responsible if all people don't live peaceably with you. But, if possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Instead of letting selfishness and bitterness rule in our hearts; we are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts so that He is honored in us, so that His sacrifice is valued by us, so that His commandments are kept by us.

The same peace of God that calms our hearts when we are troubled will also help us be calm in how we relate to others when troubles arise between us and them.

We can't live in peace on our own, but the good news is, we don't have to because Jesus is always with us and gives His peace to us.

John 14:27 says...

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The world offers a temporary peace by encouraging us to add things into our lives that calm us and remove things from our lives that upset us.

And, on the surface level, that sounds good. And, to some extent, it can be.

But the truth is, we can't escape our problems even if we go to our happy place or unfriend people or think positively.

The peace that the world gives cannot fix what is broken in this world which causes our troubled hearts in the first place, namely sin.

Jesus has dealt with our sin. That's why His peace is different. It is not based on good circumstances, but on the good news that Jesus has permanently made it well with our souls.

He knows we will have trouble in this world, but He doesn't want us to have troubled hearts. He says in 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.

If we trust that He can handle sin, death and Satan to give us eternal life, then let us trust He can also help us through all the issues we face in everyday life.

This is what brings us peace: Jesus has overcome the world, is with us as we live in the world, provides all that we need in this world, and promises to come back to deliver us from this world!

One more...

2 Thessalonians 3:16 says...

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

The bad circumstances or bad relationships or bad news that we face in this world are not to have the final word in how we think or feel inside. Why?

Because there is not a single thing we will ever face – no matter how bad it is, and it might be really bad – where there is not a greater peace available to us because there is a greater grace to help us. At all times. In every way.

And here's the best part: This peace does not come because of the absence of trouble, but because of the presence of Jesus Who is with us all in the midst of the trouble.

He will never leave us nor forsake us. The peace of the Lord is with us because the Lord of peace is with us. Perfect peace is coming where we will be forever free from any kind of conflict. Until then, the Prince of Peace is with us.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Now, again, there is much, more that can be said about peace, but if I go on too long, Paula is gonna be flashing me that “I love you ... be quiet” sign pretty soon. And the hungrier you get, you guys might join her. Some of you are warming up your fingers right now.

In all seriousness, I hope you see how beautiful God’s peace is and how it is this inner calm despite outer conflict because of what Jesus has done for us which shapes what we do with others.

Now, let’s quickly put all of this together in three summary conclusions to connect resting in God’s grace to feeling God’s peace...

1. *First, when we rest in God’s grace, we will feel God’s peace because we can let go of the shame and guilt we feel over our sinful past.*

Why? God has forgiven us. Not some of our sins. Not most of our sins. All of our sins. Every wrong thought. Every wrong attitude. Every wrong motive. Every wrong word. Every wrong action.

Jesus came to forgive all the sins of all the people who entrust all their lives to Him, regardless of who they are or what they have done.

His forgiveness is greater than our failures. And since God no longer holds our sin against us, we should not hold it against ourselves.

Resting in God’s grace means trusting that Jesus has fully and forever forgiven you. And that brings peace.

2. *Second, when we rest in God’s grace, we will feel God’s peace because we have the power of Jesus with us in the present at all times in all places to do all things regardless of all the mess and stress of this world.*

He will be with us, and He will help us to do what God plans for us.

Even when people are hostile. Even when circumstances are hard. Even when burdens are heavy.

He will lead us away from it or walk with us through it, but He will not leave us alone or powerless to deal with it.

Resting in God’s grace means trusting that whatever you’re going through, Jesus is right there in the battle, for you to depend on and draw strength from. And that brings peace.

3. *Third, when we rest in God’s grace, we will feel God’s peace because every enemy that could destroy our future has already been defeated. Sin, Satan and death have been stripped of their sting.*

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Jesus triumphantly rules over our earthly and eternal lives and is working all things out for good (even the bad things).

Sometimes we have to give up something we want or go through something we don't want.

But we can face tomorrow with confidence because our lives are in His all-powerful hands.

Not a single promise He has made to us will be unkept.

Resting in God's grace means trusting that Jesus will be with us in time of need, give to us all that we need, and one day put an end to our needs. And that brings peace.

And that brings us to THE most important thing about all of this for you this morning.

Now listen guys, while there are real threats to our peace that grace overcomes, our greatest problem isn't that we don't have peace in this broken world; our greatest problem is that we don't have peace with God because we are broken by our sin. There is hostility, not peace, between us.

There's something I need to point out here. Everything I've said is true for you only if you meet this requirement:

You have to be a saint.

Paul says these beautiful, life-changing words of grace and peace to who?

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are the faithful in Christ Jesus.

And this applies to all saints regardless of where they are.

You have to be a saint to rest in God's grace and feel God's peace.

But, listen, a saint isn't someone who is perfect; a saint is someone who has placed his or her faith in the only One Who is perfect, Jesus. Saints have faith "*in Christ Jesus.*"

If you haven't turned from your sin to put your faith in Jesus, listen to one final thing the Bible has to say about grace in Ephesians 2:8,9...

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Here's the thing: We couldn't live up to God's standards, so Jesus lived perfectly for us. We couldn't atone for our sinful imperfections, so Jesus died in our place to do so. We couldn't defeat death, so He conquered the grave so we too will rise.

Here's what won't make you right with God: your effort at trying to be good enough.

Here's what will make you right with God: Jesus.

A saint is someone who has saving faith in Jesus.

Being a good person doesn't make you a saint; believing in Jesus makes you a saint.

When we put our faith in Him, we are no longer sinners set apart FROM God; we become saints set part BY God and FOR God and to be WITH God forever. We're still not perfect, but we're forgiven.

If that's you this morning, then I want to encourage you to rest in God's grace because your past is forgiven, your present is empowered and your future is secured. So be at peace.

If you have not put your faith in Jesus, then you are not here this morning by accident ... you're here because God is giving you an opportunity to have your life and eternity changed right here, right now.

You will either receive the wrath of God for your sin or the grace of God for your sin, and I'm encouraging you to choose grace. Do it this morning.

When we pray, ask God to forgive you and favor you by His grace, to make peace between you and Him through Jesus. If you really mean it in your heart, He will do it.

If you have questions, see me after we are done this morning or someone on the front row up here, and we'd love to talk with you.

And let's not miss this: Where does the Bible say all of this comes from?

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God does all of this not so we will boast in ourselves, but so we will boast in Him.

So we will love Him and glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. His grace. His peace. His glory. His praise.

I exist – we exist – to know Jesus and make Him known so that God is honored in us and we are happy in Him.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD

Resting in His grace honors Him. Feeling His peace honors Him. And you can be sure, this will make us very, very happy when we do.

Let me close with this...

To the saints who are at Oasis Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama and are faithful in Christ Jesus. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus has made amends for our troubled past, makes provision for our troubles in the present and will someday make our future eternally glorious where there will be no more troubles at all.

When we rest in God's grace, we will feel God's peace.

So, when shame calls out to you, when worry dials your number, when fear rings in your ear ... because of the grace of God, you tell it with absolute confidence, "Nobody's home! Nobody's home!"

Let's pray...

Father, you are a God of grace and peace, and you want us to rest in that grace and feel that peace today and every day.

Many of us here this morning have things in our lives right now that are disturbing that peace, so I pray that you will help us all to trust you with those things.

Help us to rest in your grace, knowing how powerful and effective and sufficient and beautiful it is.

Father, some here have never received your grace by putting their faith in Jesus, and they're still wrestling with their sin and struggles on their own with no real peace, and it's destroying them ...

I ask that today would be the morning – right here, right now – that they would gladly receive all that you have for them in Jesus.

Work in each of our hearts so that we walk in peace with you and with each other no matter what is happening in our lives. Be glorified in all of this, Father. We ask this in Jesus' Name, amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What stood out to you from this message as most meaningful? Why?
2. What was the central idea or theme from this message?
3. What Bible verses or passages were used, and how do they support the message?
4. How does this message relate to your life right now?
5. In what ways did this message convict, encourage or inspire you?
6. What good news did you receive in this message?
7. What did you learn about God that is praiseworthy in this message?
8. How was grace and the gospel presented in this message?
9. What do you think God wants you to do as a response to this message?
10. With whom do you need to share or discuss this message?

PRAY IT

- *God, I praise you because...*
- *I confess that I struggle with...*
- *I thank you for...*
- *Please help me...*

Connecting With Me

If you have questions about any of the enclosed material, or if you have any other questions about life with Jesus, please reach out to me by using the *Contact* form at the bottom of the page at *JimmyBrown.com* (making sure you enter your email address correctly). I will personally reply back to you, usually within 24 hours (excluding holidays or weekends).

NOTE: There are a number of free resources available at www.JimmyBrown.com, and I regularly add more to the site. Check back often for additional materials to access at no cost.

Other Connections

- Social media (personal page): www.Facebook.com/thejimmydbrown/
- Daily devotions: www.FinishLineFaith.com or www.Facebook.com/FinishLineFaith/
- Travel / mission vlog (with my wife, Paula): www.TheMissionAmerica.com

*If this resource has been helpful to you, please reach out and let me know.
And please pass this document on to other people who may, by the grace of God, be helped too.*