

# Daily Devotions

## Day 1: The Gift of Peace

Reading: John 14:27-31

Jesus offers a peace that transcends earthly understanding. In a world where the misery index rises and falls with economic conditions, Christ promises something unchanging: His peace. This is not the temporary tranquility of a beach vacation or a quiet morning. This is supernatural peace that guards your heart even in chaos. Notice Jesus says "the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give." The world offers distraction from anxiety; Jesus offers deliverance from it. Today, identify one area of worry in your life. Acknowledge that worldly solutions provide only temporary relief. Then surrender that concern to Christ, asking Him to replace your anxiety with His promised peace.

## Day 2: Peace With God Before Peace Of God

Reading: Romans 5:1-11

There are two distinct types of peace: peace WITH God and peace OF God. You cannot experience the second without the first. Peace with God comes through surrendering to Jesus as Savior—flying the white flag of spiritual surrender. This reconciliation is not based on feelings but on the finished work of Christ. Only after establishing peace with God through faith can you access the peace of God that guards your heart daily. Have you made peace with God through Jesus Christ? If not, today is your day of surrender. If you have, thank God that your relationship with Him is secure, and from that foundation, ask Him to fill you with His supernatural peace for whatever challenges you face.

## Day 3: Jesus Comes in the Storm

Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

The disciples were terrified in the storm because they did not expect Jesus to come to them in the midst of their fear. How often do we make the same mistake? We cry out in our storms but fail to recognize Jesus approaching because we assume He only shows up in calm waters. Jesus specializes in meeting us in the very thing we fear most. He walked on the water—the source of their terror—to reach them. What storm are you facing today? A health crisis? Financial uncertainty? Relational conflict? Do not be troubled or afraid. Look for Jesus in the storm itself. He is not waiting for calm to arrive; He is walking toward you right now through the waves.

## Day 4: Belief Sustains Peace

Reading: John 14:28-29; Acts 2:1-4

Jesus told His disciples what would happen before it occurred so that when it did happen, they would believe. This principle sustains our peace: God keeps His promises. The disciples transformed from fearful men hiding in an upper room to bold witnesses facing persecution with peace. What changed? They saw Jesus fulfill His word. He died, rose again, and sent the Holy Spirit exactly as promised. When you are waiting for God's promises to unfold in your life, remember His track record. He has never failed. Review God's faithfulness in Scripture and in your own life. Let past fulfillments strengthen your belief today, and let that belief produce peace as you wait.

## Day 5: Peace in Spiritual Warfare

Reading: 1 John 4:1-6; Ephesians 6:10-18

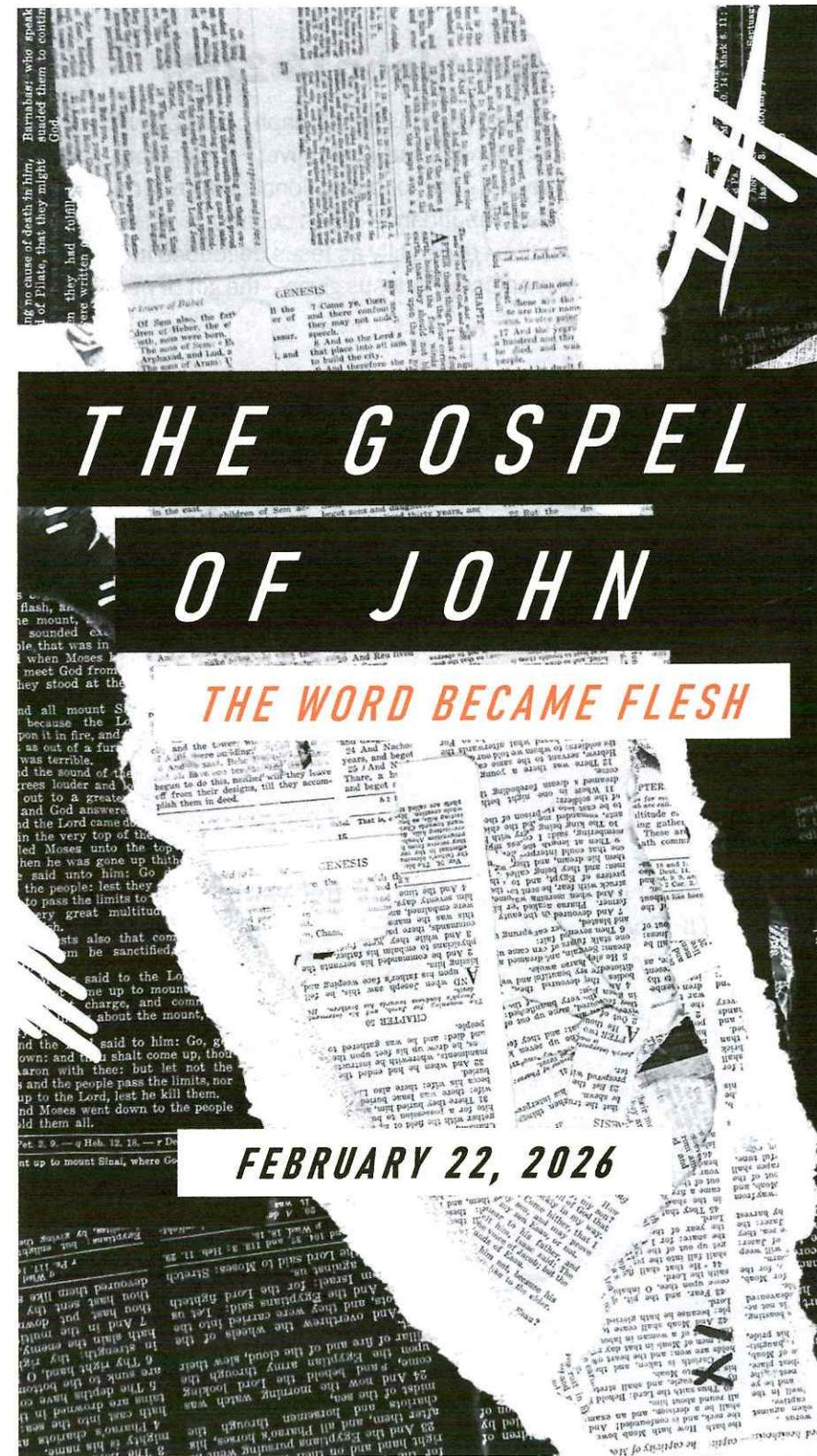
Jesus declared that the ruler of this world was approaching, yet added, "He has no power over me." As a believer, you can make the same declaration. Satan may tempt, harass, and hassle, but he has no ultimate authority over those who belong to Christ. The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. You need spiritual bracing to withstand the enemy's attacks—prayer, Scripture, community, and most importantly, your identity in Christ. Never say "the devil made me do it." He cannot force you. Instead, put on the full armor of God and stand firm. Even in spiritual warfare, Christ's peace is available. You are anchored in Him.

# Deacons on Call

Josh Bell and David Downs

# Weekly Events

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays - MS 5:30 PM; HS 6:45 PM



## Peace Out / John 14:27-31

On countless American gravestones this epitaph could be written: Hurried, Worried, Buried. What a sad way to live! Fear, anxiety, and distress have literally become part of our national culture. Odd, isn't it? Though we have such abundance in this country, most don't experience abundant life—especially as Jesus described it. Let's consider one of the greatest gifts Jesus gives—the gift of peace.

### 1. Jesus promises \_\_\_\_\_.

a. When Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, that brings peace WITH God.

b. When Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, that will bring the peace OF God.

c. Jesus came to them in the very thing they feared the most ... \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Peace comes through \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Peace is available in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture References (In order of use):** Romans 5:1; Isaiah 48:22; Matthew 14:23-26; John 12:31; John 13:27; 1 John 4:4  
**Referenced Works:** Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters (Bob Utley); John: That You May Believe (R. Kent Hughes); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings)

## Discussion Questions

1. What is one situation in your life right now where you need more peace?
2. Read **John 14:27-31**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Patrick mentioned the difference between peace WITH God and the peace OF God. How would you explain this difference in your own words? Which one do you find easier to experience?
4. Jesus said His peace is "a gift the world cannot give." What are some counterfeit forms of peace that our culture offers? How are they different from the peace Jesus offers?
5. Patrick stated that the disciples didn't recognize Jesus in the storm because "they weren't expecting Jesus to come in the storm." When have you experienced God showing up in the middle of something you feared? How did that change your perspective?
6. What "storms" are you currently facing where you need to look for Jesus' presence? How might fear be blinding you from seeing Him at work?
7. Jesus told the disciples about future events "so that when they do happen, you will believe." How have past experiences of God's faithfulness helped you trust Him in current situations?
8. Jesus said about Satan, "He has no power over me." According to 1 John 4:4, believers can say the same thing. Do you live like this is true? What would change in your daily life if you truly believed Satan has no ultimate power over you?
9. The sermon mentioned three "loads" the Golden Gate Bridge was designed to bear: dead load, live load, and wind load. What are the "bracings" in your life that help you bear up under pressure? Is your relationship with Jesus at the center of those bracings?

## Practical Applications

- **Peace Inventory:** Each day, take 5 minutes to identify where you're experiencing anxiety or fear. Ask yourself: "Am I expecting Jesus to show up in this situation?" Write down one way you see Jesus present in your current challenges.