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SEEK GOD: NOT THINGS!

HEBREWS 12:1-2 (NLV)

¹All these many people who have had faith in God are around us like a cloud. Let us put every thing out of our lives that keeps us from doing what we should. Let us keep running in the race that God has planned for us. ²Let us keep looking to Jesus. Our faith comes from Him and He is the One Who makes it perfect. He did not give up when He had to suffer shame and die on a cross. He knew of the joy that would be His later. Now He is sitting at the right side of God.

Dr Dorothy Hooks

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I. About Teaching:

A. Purpose of Teaching – This teaching is designed to help us lay aside EVERY weight, EVERY sin, and ANYTHING else, that is so easily stopping us from doing what God called us to do ([Hebrews 12:1-2 - KJV](#))! I say “Us” because I am the first partaker of the Fruit; God gave me this word and I am sharing it with you – but it hit me first!

Hebrews 12:1-2 is our foundational Scripture and every other Scripture that I will discuss in this teaching, will teach us how to do what **Hebrews 12:1-2** says (**lay aside every weight, sin, and anything else that is keeping us from doing what God called us to do**).

[Hebrews 12:1-2 \(Amplified Bible – AMP\)](#):

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of ^[a]witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God’s absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily *and* cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance *and* active persistence the race that is set before us, ²[looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, ^[b]disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].”

Footnotes:

- a. [Hebrews 12:1](#) I.e. the people commended for their faith in ch 11. See 11:2, 39.
- b. [Hebrews 12:2](#) Sometimes the public shame of the cross is overlooked when one thinks of the pain and agony inflicted by it, but in the Roman Empire crucifixion was a shameful and disgraceful way to die, a form of capital punishment from which Roman citizens were exempt; and in Roman comedy it was used in a curse: “Go to a bad cross!”

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I. About Teaching – A. Purpose of Teaching (Continued):

Hebrews 12:1-2 (New Life Version – NLV):

“All these many people who have had faith in God are around us like a cloud. Let us put every thing out of our lives that keeps us from doing what we should. Let us keep running in the race that God has planned for us. ² Let us keep looking to Jesus. Our faith comes from Him and He is the One Who makes it perfect. He did not give up when He had to suffer shame and die on a cross. He knew of the joy that would be His later. Now He is sitting at the right side of God.”

WOW!!! Jesus is our Perfect example of suffering and staying the course, God called Him to; Jesus is in us, Holy Spirit is in us, and God is for us, so we can stay the course too!!

Ephesians 4:22-24 - ESV, tells us what to put off and what to put on; this is what it says (**I would say, read the whole Chapter**) :

“²² to put off your old self,^[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

As you see, once we accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, we are to put off the old man, and put on the new man; be renewed in our spirit man, to the things of God – then, we will be led by Holy Spirit and not by our soul or the old nature.

IF we STOP ALLOWING things Jesus has ALREADY conquered for us, to weigh us down, NOTHING will be impossible for us!! Jesus HAS DONE ALL, so we can have the VICTORY in our EVERYDAY LIFE; have a LIFESTYLE OF VICTORY!! We must remember the Word, which tells us that we CAN do ALL THINGS THROUGH Christ, Who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13 – AMP**)!**

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I. About Teaching:

B. Goal of Teaching – The goal of this teaching is to give you the Tools from the Word of God (Scriptures), to help you WALK in TOTAL VICTORY, EVERYDAY! These Tools WILL show you how to:

*Help you not worry but put God FIRST, THEN He WILL give you what you NEED ([Matthew 6:24-34](#)).

*Help you not be afraid or let your heart be troubled but to believe in God and trust Him ([John 14:1,27](#)), so that the peace Jesus left you (His personal peace), WILL calm you, as it did Him, in EVERY circumstance and give you courage and strength in EVERY challenge.

*Help you not be anxious or worried about anything but to pray to God about EVERYTHING ([Philippians 4:6-7](#)). Once you do that, then Jesus' peace from [John 14:27](#), the peace of God, that assures the heart, transcends ALL understanding, WILL stand guard over your heart and mind.

*Help you humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, so He can exalt you in His time. Then once you humble yourself to God, you will be able to cast ALL your cares (ALL concerns, ALL worries, and ALL anxieties) on God, because He cares for you ([1 Peter 5:6-7](#)). God loves you very much – the love God has for you cannot be measured!

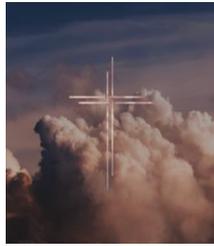
I. About Teaching:

C. How Goal Will Be Accomplished – To accomplish the goal of this teaching, I will:

*Examine some specific Scriptures in detail – [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [Matthew 17:20](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#).

*Define & Explain – Little faith, living faith, and dead faith.

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I. About Teaching – B. Goal of Teaching (Continued):

*Define & Explain – “Two Kinds of Peace” in New Testament

-Objective Peace – Has to do with our relationship to God (factual peace; based on facts).

-Subjective Peace – Has to do with our life experiences (experimental peace; based on feelings).

*Give you a model prayer, using the main Scriptures of this teaching.

II. Main Scriptures: Matthew 6:24-34; John 14:1,27; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7:

A-1. Matthew 6:24-30 – “Little Faith Not Enough” – Part 1 – In [Matthew 6:24-34](#), Jesus lets us know, we cannot serve two masters; we will love one and hate the other. (don’t make things, possessions, our master)! **When we make mammon our master, we will serve it, and forget God, our Creator!** Jesus goes on to tell us, not to worry about our life – not to worry about what we are going to eat, drink, or wear ([v25](#)). Jesus says that God feeds the birds of the air and we are **MORE** important than they are, so God **WILL** feed us too – God also clothes the grass of the field and **WILL** give us clothes also ([vs26-30](#)). **We who have given our lives to God, are to serve Him, not mammon (money, possessions, fame, status, etc. – [v24](#)).**

Jesus then shows us if we are worrying about our lives (what we are going to eat, drink and wear), we have **LITTLE** faith ([last part of verse 30](#)). Seeing what Jesus said in [verse 30 of Matthew 6](#) about having “little faith,” was a “WOW” moment for me! For so long, I had thought that a little faith was enough; since Father God had already given me “...the measure of faith,” according to [Romans 12:3](#) – this was one reason why I thought a little faith was enough. But I want to pause here and explain in full detail, my other reason for thinking having a little faith was enough – it was because of **Matthew 17:20**. Some Bible versions, such as the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** of [Matthew 17:20](#), says “...if you have faith ^[a]the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.” Therefore, I put no real thought into growing my faith.

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-2. [Matthew 17:20](#) – “Little Faith Not Enough” – Part 2 – In REALLY studying [Matthew 17:20](#) in the **King James Version (KJV)**, after I read what Jesus said in [Matthew 6:30](#) about having little faith, that version (KJV) did not use the word “size” for mustard seed. **Before I show you how the Scripture read in the KJV for Matthew 17:20, I want to give you a background of [Matthew 6:30](#) – Jesus was responding to the disciples’ question as to why they could not cast the demon out of the boy – Jesus said because of their little faith or unbelief .**

This is what [Matthew 17:20](#) say in the KJV, “**And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you” (underline added by me).**

[Matthew 17:20](#) in the **Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)** reads, “**He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of ^[a]firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith ^[b]that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you” (underline added by me).**

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-3. [Matthew 17:20](#) – “Living Faith Brings Results” – Let’s look at another version of [Matthew 17:20](#); the **Amplified Bible (AMP)**, “**He answered, “Because of your little faith [your lack of trust and confidence in the power of God]; for I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, ^[a]if you have [living] faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and [if it is God’s will] it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you”.**

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): A-3. [Matthew 17:20](#) – “Living Faith Brings Results” (Continued):

The **AMP** version really breaks down [Matthew 17:20](#) for us. When I saw “...if you have living faith...,” I wanted to know what living faith was – I am glad this version had a footnote, and this is what the footnote said (**The underline in Matthew 17:20 on the previous page, was added by me.**):

“Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 17:20](#) Jesus used this moment to emphasize to the disciples that a person’s confident, abiding faith combined with God’s power can produce absolutely amazing results, if the request is in harmony with God’s will. God is fully capable of doing that which man regards as impossible ([Mark 14:36](#); [James 4:3](#)).”

Therefore, we see from [Matthew 17:20](#) footnote that “living faith,” is faith that is confident and abiding, in God’s Power, no matter what it looks like; our faith should be in God’s abilities, not ours! THEN, when our faith is living, it can be combined with God’s Power, to produce results (what we pray for), that are in line with God’s will, for our lives!

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-4. “Living & Dead Faith Compared” – If there is a living faith, then there is a dead faith. I dug deeper into the definition of “living faith,” and found a teaching by **Pastor Colin Smith** titled, [“Three Subtle Differences Between Dead and Living Faith.”](#) You can read the complete teaching by clicking on the title above, but I am putting one of the excerpts, here from what Pastor Smith said, under the subtopic, **“Living faith vs. dead faith” in the teaching.**

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): [A-4. "Living & Dead Faith Compared"](#) (Continued):

Pastor Smith said:

"Dead faith may at first glance look suspiciously like living faith, but in reality, it is a whitewashed tomb. Dead faith is static, infertile, full of fear, full of obligation, and lacking in love. What a loathsome thing. But living faith is dynamic, active, growing, good fruit-producing, full of love, full of conviction, and full of repentance."

WOW! After reading this, I want living faith, not dead faith! I am no longer satisfied with little faith (having lack of trust and confidence in the Power of God – [Matthew 17:20](#) – AMP)!! I want my faith to be confident and abiding, in the Power of God so that God's Power, can combine with my faith, and bring the results to my prayers, according to God's will, and not mine – **THAT'S LIVING FAITH!!** And having **LIVING FAITH, NOT DEAD FAITH**, is the **ONLY** way we are going to be able to speak to the mountains in our lives, and they be removed and casted into the sea!!!

Us believing in God's mighty Power, being confident, and NOT waiving by what we see, is when our faith, can combine with God's Power, and we see what we pray for; AS LONG AS IT LINE UP WITH GOD'S WILL FOR US!! God will not give us anything that will harm us; He will not give us what is not in HIS will for us!! That is why it is so important, to pray the will of God be done in our lives; **NOT our will!!**

*****My Prayer: Father I want my faith to come alive!! NO MORE DEAD FAITH!! Holy Spirit, teach me how to activate my faith, so it can become alive in me! Thank You Father for hearing my prayer and answering me, in Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen!!!*****

Living faith is everything that little faith is not! As we see from Pastor Smith's teaching, ["Three Subtle Differences Between Dead and Living Faith,"](#) **"living faith is dynamic, active, growing, good fruit-producing, full of love, full of conviction, and full of repentance."**

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-4. "Cultural Context" – When we read Scripture, it is always important for us to know the context of that Scripture, so we can better understand it; cultural context can help. To get a better understanding of the cultural context of [Matthew 17:20](#), read the excerpt from **Joe Amaral's** book, ["Understanding Jesus: Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ."](#)

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-5. [Matthew 6:24-30 Recap](#) – Let's continue with the rest of the verses of [Matthew 6:24-34](#); I will recap [verses 24-30](#) for you: Jesus lets us know, we cannot serve two masters; we will love one and hate the other. Then Jesus tells us not to worry about our lives; don't think about what we are going to eat, drink, or wear ([v25](#)) – we are not to make things, possessions, our master ([v24](#))! When we make mammon our master, we will serve it, and forget God, our Creator! Jesus says that God feeds the birds of the air and we are MORE important than they are, so God WILL feed us too – God also clothes the grass of the field and WILL give us clothes also ([vs26-30](#)). Jesus lets us know, if we are worrying about our lives (what we are going to eat, drink and wear), we have LITTLE faith ([last part of verse 30](#)) or unbelief, as [Jesus says in the first part of Matthew 17:20 - KJV](#). We who have given our lives to God, are to serve Him, not mammon (money, possessions, fame, status, etc. – [v24](#)).

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-5. [Matthew 6:31-34](#) – In [verse 31](#) of **Matthew 6 (NLV)**, Jesus tells us again, "Do not worry. Do not keep saying, 'What will we eat?' or, 'What will we drink?' or, 'What will we wear?'" Jesus said in [verse 32](#), the people who do not know God, are looking for these same things; Jesus assures us that our Father in Heaven, **KNOWS** we need these things – God knows what we need **BEFORE** we ask! **We MUST trust Him; God will give us our heart's desire in His time – AS LONG AS IT LINE UP WITH HIS WILL!**

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): A-5. [Matthew 6:31-34](#) (Continued):

Jesus lets us know in [verse 33](#) of Matthew 6, what we are to be seeking after; we are to SEEK the Kingdom of God and NOT things in [verses 25-32](#)! Jesus said in [verse 33-NLV](#), "First of all, look for the holy nation of God. Be right with Him. All these other things will be given to you also."

In other words, give your life completely to God; seek His Kingdom and NOT the things of the world ([Matthew 24:35](#)) – become righteous by giving your life to Jesus, the Righteous One ([1 John 2:1](#); [Romans 3:22](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#))! Jesus is the One Who laid down His life, so we could live ([1 John 3:16](#); [John 10:18](#); [John 15:13](#))! I invite you now, to give your life to Jesus; accept Jesus as YOUR personal Lord and Savior ([click here to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior](#))!

Then Jesus tells us in [Matthew 6:34](#), not to worry about tomorrow either – DON'T worry about ANYTHING! Jesus covers it ALL; He told us what not to worry about in [Matthew 6:25-31](#), [34](#)! But before that, Jesus tells in [v24](#), we cannot serve two masters; God and mammon (possessions, money, status, fame) – we MUST choice ONE!! This is what Jesus said in [verse 34](#), "Do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will have its own worries. The troubles we have in a day are enough for one day." Worrying stresses us out and cause all kinds of health issues ([click here for "Stress Symptoms"](#)). Especially, when we worry about today and tomorrow problems together! We CANNOT EFFECTIVELY serve and obey God, when we are stressed and worried; walking around FULL of anxiety!

Jesus has given us a remedy for worry in [Matthew 6:33](#); seek God's Kingdom FIRST, instead of worrying about what we are going to eat, drink, and wear ([Matthew 6:25-31](#))! THEN, once we are right with God, He will give us EVERYTHING else we need, without us asking; He ALREADY know what we NEED, BEFORE we ask ([Matthew 6:31-33](#))!!

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

B-1-1. [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#) – We saw what Jesus had to say about worry, in [Matthew 6:24-34](#); “...**Do not worry about your life...**” Now, let’s see what Jesus says about our heart being troubled, in [John 14:1,27](#). But before we study [John 14:1,27](#), let’s look at the kinds of peace that are available to us in the New Testament; so, we can understand the context in which peace is being used in [John 14:1,27](#) and [Philippians 4:6-7](#). I know Jesus is the Prince of Peace and He gave us His peace, but we must know, what context we are using Jesus’ peace in; you will understand it better, once I get into the explanation of the kinds of peace. **However, ALWAYS, ask Holy Spirit, to give you understanding of anyone’s teaching and He will!**

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

B-1-1. “[Two Kinds of Peace](#)” – According to John MacArthur in his teaching, [“The Gift of Peace,”](#) under the subtopic of **“The Nature of Peace,”** there are two kinds of peace (**or operations of peace**), in the New Testament. This is what John MacArthur said:

“The New Testament speaks of two kinds of peace—the objective peace that has to do with your relationship to God, and the subjective peace that has to do with your experience in life. The natural man lacks peace with God. We all come into the world fighting against God, because we are a part of the rebellion that started with Adam and Eve. [Romans 5:10](#) says we were enemies of God. We fought against God, and everything we did militated against His principles.

But when we receive Jesus Christ, we cease being enemies of God—we make a truce with Him. We come over to His side, and the hostility is ended. Jesus Christ wrote the treaty with the blood of His cross. That treaty, that bond, that covenant of peace declares the objective fact that we now are at peace with Him.

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): [B-1-1. "Two Kinds of Peace"](#) (Continued):

[Romans 5:1](#) says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God." We who trust Christ are redeemed and declared righteous by faith. Our sins are forgiven, rebellion ceases, the war is over, and we have peace with God. That was God's wonderful purpose in salvation.

[Colossians 1:20-22](#) says that Christ "made peace through the blood of His cross.... And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach."

But Jesus is not talking about objective peace in [John 14:27](#). The peace He speaks of here is a subjective, experiential peace. It is tranquility of the soul, a settled, positive peace that affects the circumstances of life. It is peace that is aggressive; rather than being victimized by events, it attacks them and gobbles them up."

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

[B-1-2. "Subjective Peace"](#) - John MacArthur goes on to explain what "subjective peace" is, in his teaching, "[The Gift of Peace](#);" he said subjective peace "is a supernatural, permanent, positive, no-side-effects, divine tranquilizer. This peace is the heart's calm after Calvary's storm. It is the firm conviction that He who spared not His own Son will also along with Him freely give us all things (cf. [Romans 8:32](#)).

John MacArthur continues to say, under the same subtopic, "[The Nature of Peace](#)," that the peace in [Philippians 4:7](#), is the same kind of peace, as in [John 14:27](#); subjective, or experimental peace.

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): [B-1-2](#). "Subjective Peace" (Continued):

This is what [Philippians 4:6-7](#) says, "6 Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. 7 And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]" (AMP).

John MacArthur said that the peace of God is not based on circumstance like the world's peace, so it doesn't make sense to the carnal mind; Paul says it is a peace that surpasses comprehension. In the **NASB95 version**, [Philippians 4:7](#) says: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Subjective peace is divine, supernatural peace; it cannot be figured out on a human level.

John MacArthur goes on to explain in "[The Gift of Peace](#)" teaching, the meaning of the word "guard" in [Philippians 4:7](#); this is what he said: "The word for "guard" in [Philippians 4:7](#) is not the word that means to "watch," or "keep imprisoned." It is a word that is often used in a military sense, meaning "to stand at a post and guard against the aggression of an enemy." When peace is on guard, the Christian has entered an impregnable citadel from which nothing can dislodge him. The name of the fortress is Christ, and the guard is peace. The peace of God stands guard and keeps worry from the corroding our hearts, and unworthy thoughts from tearing up our minds."

Keep looking to Jesus, no matter what? Keep your eyes FIXED on Jesus!!

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II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

B-1-3. ["The Source of Peace"](#) – This is what John MacArthur also said, about the type of peace Jesus was referring to, in **John 14:27**, and who is the source of peace, in his teaching, **["The Gift of Peace,"](#)** under the subtopic, **"The Source of Peace"**:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful ([John 14:27](#)). The peace Jesus is speaking of enables believers to remain calm in the most wildly fearful circumstances. It enables them to hush a cry, still a riot, rejoice in pain and trial, and sing in the middle of suffering. This peace is never by circumstances, but instead affects and even overrules them."

The **"Source of Peace"** according to John MacArthur:

"This subjective, experiential peace—the peace of God—has its foundation in the objective, factual peace—peace with God. The peace of God is not obtainable by those who are not at peace with Him. God alone brings peace. In fact, in [Philippians 4:9](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#), and again in [Hebrews 13:20](#), He is called "the God of peace." Jesus Christ is also seen as the One who gives peace. Jesus said, "My peace I give to you." Notice He says "My peace." Here is the key to the supernaturalness of this peace: it is His own personal peace. It is the same deep, rich peace that stilled His heart in the midst of mockers, haters, murderers, traitors, and everything else He faced. He had a calm about Him that was unnatural and nonhuman. In the midst of incomprehensible resistance and persecution, Jesus was calm and unfaltering; He was a rock."

Rest in the fact that God is with you, for you, and NOT against you; God got YOU in the palm of His hand, and will NEVER let you go!!

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

B-1-4. [“The Giver of Peace” – Part 1](#) – Continuing on with excerpts from John MacArthur’s [“The Gift of Peace”](#) teaching, under the subtopic of **“The Giver of Peace,”** because to fully be able to live without worry, anxiousness, not let our hearts be troubled, etc., we need to **FULLY** understand what Jesus and His peace **HAS** done for us!! We **CANNOT FULLY TRUST** God, unless we **REALLY KNOW** Him – **NOT** with head knowledge but by allowing our spirit man to connect with Holy Spirit, so He can reveal God to us!! But first things first, if you have not accepted Jesus as **YOUR** personal Lord and Savior, you cannot know God anyway! Therefore, I want to give you another opportunity, to give **YOUR** life to God, by accepting His Son Jesus, the One who reconciled us back to God, as YOUR personal Lord and Savior, right here, right now ([click here to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior](#)).

This is what John MacArthur said about, **“The Giver of Peace”**:

“The Holy Spirit is the Giver of this peace, and He dispenses it as a gift. [Galatians 5:22](#) says one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is peace. You might ask, if it was Christ's peace, why is the Holy Spirit giving it? The answer is in [John 16:14](#), which says, “He will glorify Me; for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.” The Holy Spirit's ministry is to take the things of Christ and give them us.”

There is one more section of John MacArthur’s teaching, [“The Gift of Peace,”](#) that I want to include in this teaching, but first, let’s look at the words Jesus spoke to His disciples, in [John 14:1,27](#). This is what Jesus said in [John 14:1](#); He was encouraging His disciple’s hearts but He is also encouraging our hearts today.

“Do not let your heart be troubled (afraid, cowardly). Believe[confidently] in God and trust in Him, [have faith, hold on to it, rely on it, keep going and] believe also in Me.”

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

B-1-5. [“The Giver of Peace” – Part 2](#) – Not letting our hearts be troubled, is so important, that Jesus said it again in [verse 27 of John 14](#) – then Jesus tells us that He has given us His peace, to calm us. This is what Jesus said:

“Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]”

You see, Jesus’ peace **WILL** calm us in **EVERY** circumstance, giving us courage and strength for **EVERY** challenge! Let’s look at [Philippians 4:7](#) in the **Amplified Bible version (AMP)**:

“And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].”

Remember what John MacArthur said in his teaching, [“The Gift of Peace,”](#) about the word **“guard”** meaning in **Philippians 4:7** (John is using **NASB95 version**):

“The word for “guard” in [Philippians 4:7](#) is not the word that means to “watch,” or “keep imprisoned.” It is a word that is often used in a military sense, meaning “to stand at a post and guard against the aggression of an enemy.” When peace is on guard, the Christian has entered an impregnable citadel from which nothing can dislodge him. The name of the fortress is Christ, and the guard is peace. The peace of God stands guard and keeps worry from the corroding our hearts, and unworthy thoughts from tearing up our minds.”

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

B-1-6. [“The Result of Peace”](#) – Before I recap **Part II, Sessions 3 – 13**, I want to include the last section, from John MacArthur’s teaching, **[“The Gift of Peace,”](#)** – this subsection is called, **“The Result of Peace.”** This is what John said:

“Jesus shows us the proper response to His promise of peace, ‘Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful’ ([John 14:27](#)). We ought to be able to lay hold of this peace. It is there, it is ours; but we must take hold of it. It is interesting that He says ‘I give you peace,’ then He says, ‘Do not let your heart be troubled.’ The peace He gives has to be received and applied in our lives. If we lay hold of the promise of the very peace of Christ, we will have calm, untroubled hearts, regardless of external circumstances. Paul also said,

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ([2 Corinthians 4:8-11](#))

But he wrote,

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. ([vv.16-18](#))

***God loves YOU very much!! Never forget it!! God is with you!!**

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): [B-1-6](#). "The Result of Peace" (Continued):

In other words, Paul didn't focus on his problems, but on the promises of God to sustain and ultimately glorify him. Trouble comes and goes, but glory is eternal. Paul understood that, and that's why in the midst of his trials he could write to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" ([Philippians 4:4](#)).

To have that supernatural peace available puts us under obligation to lean on it. [Colossians 3:15](#) is not a command to seek peace, but rather a plea to let the Lord's peace work in us: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." You have this peace, now let it rule.

Perfect peace comes when our focus is off the problem, off the trouble, and constantly on Christ. [Isaiah 26:3](#) says, "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You."

In the midst of a society in which we are constantly bombarded with advertising and other worldly pressures designed to get us to focus on our needs and problems, how can we keep our minds focused on Christ? By studying the Word of God and being taught by the Holy Spirit and permitting Him to fix our hearts on the person of Jesus Christ."

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

[B-2. Recap – \[Matthew 6:24-34\]\(#\); \[John 14:1,27\]\(#\); \[Philippians 4:6-7\]\(#\)](#) – Okay, let's recap **Section II**:

*In [Matthew 6:24-34](#), Jesus tells us we CANNOT serve two masters; God and mammon (possessions, money, fame, status) – we MUST choose God or mammon – it is our choice ([v24](#))! Then Jesus tells us not to worry about our lives; don't think about what we are going to eat, drink, or wear because God ALREADY know what we need and will provide for us. We are to SEEK God's Kingdom FIRST, His righteousness, and then God will give us what we need, according to His will for our lives; in His time. This is just POWERFUL! God is sooooo GOOD to us!! I love Him!!

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): [B-2](#). Recap – [Matthew 6:25-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#) (Continued):

*In [John 14:1,27](#), Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled; that mean, we can stop our hearts from being troubled! We can choose to be troubled or not be troubled – we have a choice! In [verse 27](#), Jesus tells us that He has given us His peace, to calm us. Again, we see the word, “let” – Jesus said, “Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.” Again, we have a choice to either be troubled and worry or allow Jesus’ peace to calm us in EVERY circumstance; allow Jesus to give us courage and strength for EVERY challenge!

*Paul said in [Philippians 4:6-7 \(AMP\)](#): “⁶ Do not be anxious *or* worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].”

Remember what John MacArthur said, in his teaching, “[The Gift of Peace](#),” about what the word “guard” mean, in [Philippians 4:7](#): “is not the word that means to “watch,” or “keep imprisoned.” It is a word that is often used in a military sense, meaning “to stand at a post and guard against the aggression of an enemy.” When peace is on guard, the Christian has entered an impregnable citadel from which nothing can dislodge him. The name of the fortress is Christ, and the guard is peace. The peace of God stands guard and keeps worry from the corroding our hearts, and unworthy thoughts from tearing up our minds.”

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#): [B-2. Recap – Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#) (Continued):

[Philippians 4:6-7](#) in the Message Bible (MSG) says: “⁶⁻⁷ Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”

WOW!!! Praise God for His Word!

II. Main Scriptures: [Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

C. [1 Peter 5:6-7](#) – Okay, let’s continue; this is the last Scripture for this teaching – [1 Peter 5:6-7](#) and this is what it says in the **AMP version**:

“⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [set aside self-righteous pride], so that He may exalt you [to a place of honor in His service] at the appropriate time, ⁷ casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully].”

WOW! WOW! WOW! This Scripture clearly sums up this complete teaching! IF we cast ALL our cares (ALL our anxieties, ALL our concerns, and ALL our worries), upon our Father God, HE WILL exalt us to a place of honor in His service, in His time! God WILL cause us to be able to do what He called us to do, in freedom; we will have no more bondage to fear, worry, anxiety, or ANYTHING sorrowful!

What you can see, is ONLY temporary, but what you cannot see, is Eternal! Walk by faith and NOT by sight!

Seek God: NOT Things!



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III. Bottomline: [Matthew 6:24-34](#):

A-1. [Matthew 6:24-34](#) – Jesus lets us know, we cannot serve two masters; we will love one and hate the other; we cannot serve God and mammon (possessions, fame, money, status – [v24](#)). Jesus said for us **NOT** to worry about our life; what we are going to eat, drink, or wear! God takes care of the birds, flowers, and grass of the fields; therefore, He **WILL** take care of us ([Matthew 6:25-31](#)). If we spend our time, worrying about our life, that shows how little faith we have in God ([v30](#)). People who do not know God (unbelievers), seek after the things ([v32](#)) in [verse 25](#). **We who KNOW God, should seek first after God’s Kingdom; the things of Him, so we can know His righteous ways, and not assume we know what His righteousness way of living is! We need to make sure, what WE THINK is God’s righteousness, REALLY is his righteousness! We CANNOT live righteous, without Jesus, because He is our Righteousness; our righteousness ONLY comes through [accepting Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior!](#) Once we seek first God’s Kingdom and His righteousness, THEN, ALL the things we NEED, WILL be GIVEN to us by God ([v33](#))! Also, we are NOT to worry about tomorrow; tomorrow has its own troubles ([v34](#)) – God got us and will NEVER let us go!!**

III. Bottomline: [John 14:1, 27](#):

A-2. [John 14:1,27](#) – Jesus said for us **NOT** to **LET** our hearts be troubled in [John 14:1](#). This shows, we have a choice; we **CHOOSE** to be troubled or **NOT** – we **HAVE** Jesus’ peace so we don’t have to be troubled ([John 14:27](#)). Jesus’ peace calms us in **EVERY** circumstance and gives us courage and strength, in **EVERY** challenge!



Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

III. Bottomline: [Philippians 4:6-7](#):

A-2. [Philippians 4:6-7](#) – In short, Paul tells us in [Philippians 4:6](#), not to be anxious or worry about **ANYTHING**, but to pray about **EVERYTHING!** Paul goes on in [verse 7](#), to give us a breakdown of what God's peace (**the peace Jesus gave us in [John 14:27](#)**), will do for us. Paul shows us, that Jesus' peace will help us in **EVERY** circumstance and challenge. The peace we inherited from Jesus, the peace that reassures our hearts, the peace that transcends **ALL** understanding, that peace which stands guard over our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus, is ours - when we **CHOOSE** to pray about the things that come to make us anxious or worry, instead of **ALLOWING** them to cause our hearts to be troubled, afraid, worried, or anxious!

III. Bottomline: [1 Peter 5:6-7](#):

A-3. [1 Peter 5:6-7](#) – Peter tells us to humble ourselves, under the mighty hand of God (**lay aside self-righteous pride**), then God **WILL** exalt us in His time – God will raise us up to do what He called us to do ([1 Peter 5:6](#))! **This is another reason for us to seek God First, and His righteousness, so we will not stay in our self-righteous ways; we will KNOW what God's righteousness, looks like!! If we stay puffed up in our self-righteous pride, God won't raise us up!**

We **MUST** come to ourselves, and realize that we **CANNOT** do **ANYTHING**, without God, but with God, we **CAN** do **ALL THINGS** through Christ, Who strengthens us ([Philippians 4:13](#))!

Peter goes on to say in [verse 7](#), that we are to cast **ALL** our cares (**ALL anxieties, ALL concerns, and ALL worries**), on God because He cares for about us – we can **ONLY REALLY** do this, **AFTER** we humble ourselves, under God's Almighty hand!

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.
JOHN 14:27 NIV

Seek God: NOT Things!



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IV. Apply God's Word:

A-1. Closing Remarks – It is time for us to apply God's Word, to our lives – this is how we are going to obtain, **TOTAL VICTORY**, in our lives! Therefore, take the main Scriptures in this teaching, and begin to apply the Word of God to your life, every day. For example, make a list of everything you are anxious, concerned, and worried about or that your heart is troubled about. After that, then pray as Holy Spirit gave you a prayer, using the Scriptures in this teaching ([Matthew 6:24-34](#); [John 14:1,27](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#)). It will be easier to make a prayer out of the Scriptures, if you write each one out, making your prayer out of each one, as you write; this is my suggestion, but ask Holy Spirit how to write your prayer and what to write – be led by Holy Spirit, in **ALL** things!

Once you have made a prayer out of each Scripture, then combine the parts together, and pray that prayer, over your list of worries, concerns, anxious things, and things that are causing, your heart to be troubled, every day.

IV. Apply God's Word:

A-2. Praying the Scripture – This is my prayer, that I made from the Scriptures:

Father, in the Name of Jesus, and by the Power of His Mighty Blood, I choose to serve You and You alone, not mammon! I CHOOSE to give You my heart; You are MORE important to me Father, than fame, status, money, or possessions! Therefore, I refuse to worry about my life; what I am going to eat, drink, or wear. You take care of the birds, grass, and flowers; therefore, I KNOW You will take care of me! I will not be like the people who do not know you, and ask You for things, You ALREADY know that I need.

But I will seek first Your Kingdom, Your righteousness, which ONLY comes through Jesus; I WILL seek FIRST, way of doing and being right, and WILL NOT lean to my OWN understanding! Because MY righteousness, is as filthy rags ([Isaiah 64:6](#))!

And Father, I CHOOSE NOT TO worry about tomorrow, because You have my tomorrows in Your hands ([Jeremiah 29:11](#); [James 4:13-15](#); [Psalm 31:15](#); [Proverbs 27:11](#); [Proverbs 16:9](#)).

Seek God: NOT Things!



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IV. Apply God's Word: [A-2, Praying the Scripture \(Continued\)](#):

Father, I CHOOSE NOT TO let my heart be troubled, but I put my trust in You! I WILL NOT be afraid either; I WILL ALLOW YOUR perfect peace, that Jesus left me, to keep me calm in EVERY circumstance and give me courage and strength, in EVERY challenge!

I also CHOOSE Father, NOT TO be anxious, worried, or concerned about ANYTHING, but in EVERY circumstance and situation, I WILL make my request known unto You, with thanksgiving in advance. Then Your peace, the peace that reassures my heart, and transcends ALL my understanding, WILL stand guard and keep worry from corroding my heart, and unworthy thoughts, from tearing up my mind! I receive Your peace NOW Father, in Jesus' Mighty Name!!

Thank You Father for YOUR peace, that Jesus left me, and Holy Spirit HAS given me; thank You Father, for my FULL manifestation, of ALL my benefits, Jesus has given to me!!

I TAKE BACK from the enemy, EVERYTHING he has stolen from me, that he shouldn't have; Father, I don't want ANYTHING, that You did not ordain for me to have!! Father, remove EVERYONE, and EVERYTHING, that is in my life, that is NOT of You, and that You did not ordain, and give me the things You want me to have, and put the people in my life, You want to have in my life, in this season, in Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen!!

I am going to rewrite here, what I wrote in [Session 12 Part 2 – B-1-5](#), so you can refresh your minds, on what John MacArthur said in his teaching, ["The Gift of Peace,"](#) about the meaning of the word "guard," in [Philippians 4:7](#).

John MacArthur said that the peace of God is not based on circumstance like the world's peace, so it doesn't make sense to the carnal mind; Paul says it is a peace that surpasses comprehension.

Seek God: NOT Things!



Picture Reference: SundaySocial.tv through YouVersion Bible App

IV. Apply God's Word: [A-2, Praying the Scripture \(Continued\)](#):

In the **NASB95** version, [Philippians 4:7](#) says: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Subjective peace is divine, supernatural peace; it cannot be figured out on a human level.

John MacArthur goes on to explain in "[The Gift of Peace](#)" teaching, the meaning of the word "guard" in [Philippians 4:7](#); this is what he said: "The word for "guard" in [Philippians 4:7](#) is not the word that means to "watch," or "keep imprisoned." It is a word that is often used in a military sense, meaning "to stand at a post and guard against the aggression of an enemy." When peace is on guard, the Christian has entered an impregnable citadel from which nothing can dislodge him. The name of the fortress is Christ, and the guard is peace. The peace of God stands guard and keeps worry from the corroding our hearts, and unworthy thoughts from tearing up our minds."

Now, with the words of John MacArthur said once again, I agree with you all, that God's peace, WILL guard your hearts and minds, as you seek God's Kingdom and HIS WAY of doing things, HIS Righteousness (Jesus, our Lord and Savior) FIRST! I pray God will deliver, heal, and restore you all, wherever you need it, in Jesus' Mighty Name and by the Power (Holy Spirit) of His Blood, Amen!! Thank You Father for hearing and answering our prayers, in Jesus' Mighty Name, and by the Power of His Blood, Amen!!



Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks
God's Servant