



# PEACE ON EARTH

AN EXPEDITION ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

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# PEACE ON EARTH

## AN EXPEDITION ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Peace is God's gift of wholeness to all those who determine to enter His presence and follow His will.

As we encounter this Advent season as the community of Expedition Church, together we journey towards His desire for our lives... peace on earth... and our hope for peace in the world yet to come.

He has shown us the way to peace, even during times of confusion, fear, and tribulation... **“Fear not, for I have overcome the world”** - Jesus.

**This Advent season we will be focusing on:**

- Circumstantial Peace
- The Peace Giver
- Peace Givers
- Christmas Peace

Join us as we daily offer our prayer and praise to the Prince of Peace and invite the God of Peace to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

On the following pages you will find an introduction to the devotional. This should allow you to encounter a time of contemplation and **peace** with the God of all creation. May God bless us all in this journey together, in Jesus' name.



# PEACE

**EIRÉNÉ: ONE, PEACE, QUIETNESS, REST.**

**ORIGINAL WORD: ΕΙΡΗΝΗ, ΉΣ, Ή**

**PART OF SPEECH: NOUN, FEMININE**

**TRANSLITERATION: EIRÉNÉ**

**PHONETIC SPELLING: (I-RAY'-NAY)**

**SHORT DEFINITION: PEACE, PEACE OF MIND**

**DEFINITION: PEACE, PEACE OF MIND; INVOCATION OF PEACE A COMMON JEWISH FAREWELL, IN THE HEBRAISTIC SENSE OF THE HEALTH (WELFARE) OF AN INDIVIDUAL.**

**EIRÉNÉ (FROM EIRŌ, "TO JOIN, TIE TOGETHER INTO A WHOLE") – PROPERLY, WHOLENESS, I.E. WHEN ALL ESSENTIAL PARTS ARE JOINED TOGETHER; PEACE (GOD'S GIFT OF WHOLENESS).**



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PRACTICE THESE  
THINGS, AND THE  
GOD OF PEACE WILL  
BE WITH YOU.

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Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 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.**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—**practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9**



- IF YOU ARE NOT ANXIOUS
- AND YOU PRAY AND SPECIFICALLY ASK GOD FOR THINGS
- THEN YOU WILL RECEIVE PEACE FROM GOD TO GUARD YOUR HEART AND MIND

# IF / THEN



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- IF YOU THINK GOOD THOUGHTS
- AND YOU PRACTICE WHAT JESUS (THE GOOD NEWS / GOSPEL) TEACHES
- THEN THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU

# IF / THEN



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# SUPPLICATION

**DEÉSIS: A NEED, ENTREATY**

**ORIGINAL WORD: Δέησις, ΕΩΣ, Ἡ**

**PART OF SPEECH: NOUN, FEMININE**

**TRANSLITERATION: DEÉSIS**

**PHONETIC SPELLING: (DEH'-AY-SIS)**

**DEFINITION: A NEED, ENTREATY**

**USAGE: SUPPLICATION, PRAYER, ENTREATY.**

**FROM: DÉOMAI (FROM THE ROOT DEŌ, "HAVING DEEP PERSONAL NEED, TO BE IN WANT," SEE ALSO 1162 /DÉÉSIS, "FELT-NEED") – PROPERLY, TO FEEL PRESSING NEED BECAUSE OF LACK – HENCE, TO MAKE URGENT APPEAL; TO HAVE DEEP PERSONAL NEED CAUSING ONE TO BESEECH (MAKE EARNEST, SPECIFIC REQUEST).**



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## DAILY DEVOTION

### A FOCUS ON PRAYER AND PEACE

If we look at the previous pages with the direction of Paul - via the Holy Spirit in the inspired Word of God - then we see a God of order and purpose.

Paul tells us plainly how to receive peace from God to **guard our hearts and minds**, and how to have **the God of peace be with us**.

Here is what we are to do as believers: **do not be anxious about anything** (I know, easier said than done), **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God**.

**Prayer:** Well, prayer is a gimme for this devotional. On one of the following pages, you will see the Lord's Prayer. It's how Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Pray this prayer each day to start your devotion time.

**Supplication:** This simply means that you know what you want from God, and you make it **clearly** known to Him. You can even list it out (which is recommended).

**Thanksgiving:** Tell God why you Love Him and what you are thankful for in your life. Try this next: focus on the things that you have received that once you may have only hoped for. These things are often forgotten and given little attention.



DO NOT SPOIL WHAT  
YOU HAVE BY DESIRING  
WHAT YOU HAVE NOT; BUT  
REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU NOW HAVE  
DO NOT SPOIL WHAT YOU HAVE BY DESIRING WHAT YOU  
HAVE NOT; BUT REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU NOW HAVE  
WAS ONCE AMONG THE THINGS YOU ONLY HOPED FOR...

-ANTIQUE STORE SIGN THAT HANGS IN MY HOME

A MONG THE THINGS  
YOU ONLY HOPED FOR  
**HOPED FOR**



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## DAILY DEVOTION

### A FOCUS ON PRAYER AND PEACE

Notice Paul never mentions a yes or no answer to your prayers.

For some, this is disheartening. However, God isn't Santa Clause and He isn't a genie in a bottle.

God knows what is best for you - believe it or not, better than you do.

If we come to God in all sincerity and trust Him with our anxiety, our doubt, our troubles... but also trust Him with our thanksgiving, our praise, our gratitude, our hopes, and our dreams then...

***“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”***

And finally, end your time with God in silence, approaching the day in a way that embraces His peace...

***“whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”***



# JESUS

**“Pray then like this”**

**“Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

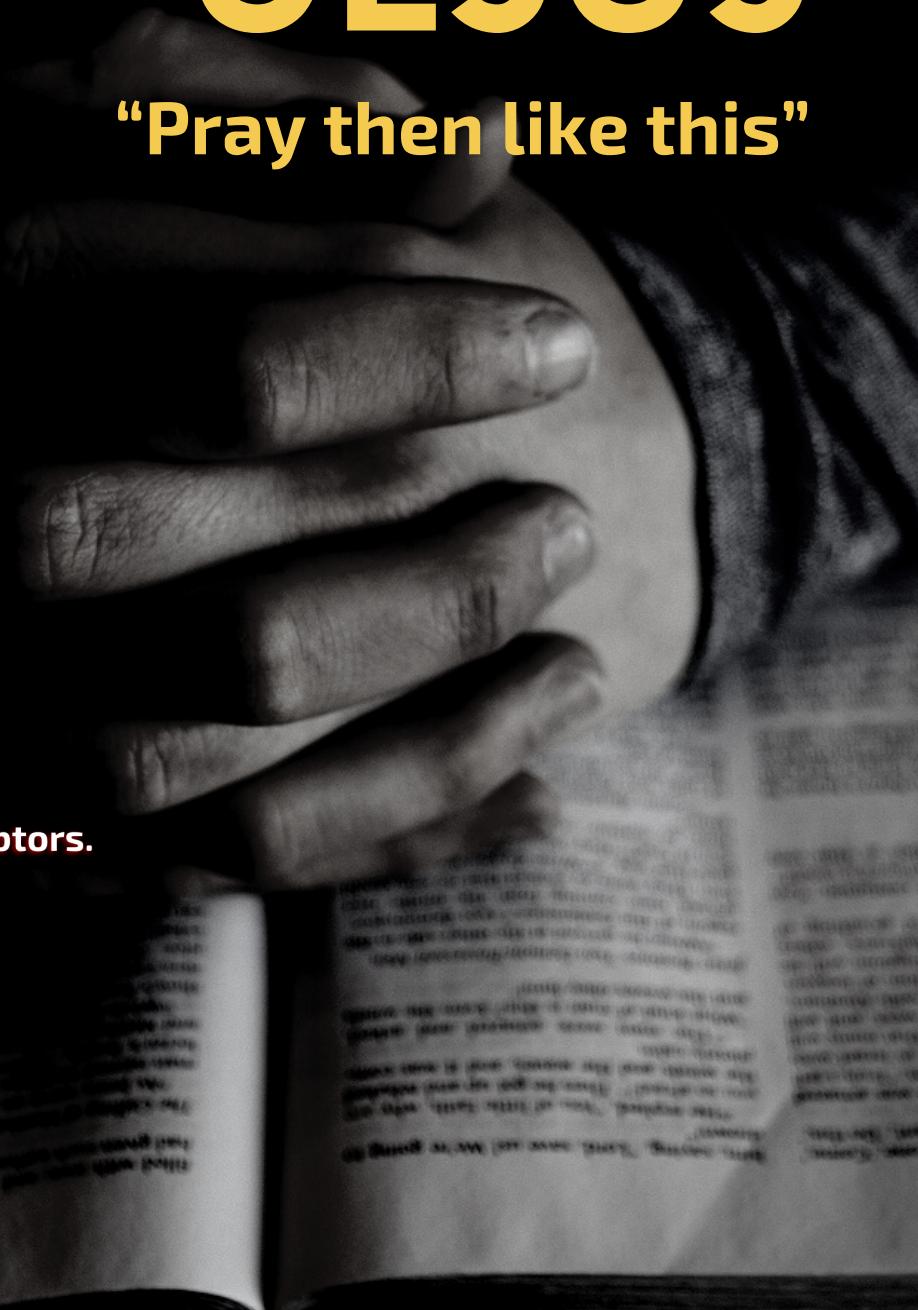
**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our debts,**

**as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**



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**GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU**

**- BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BETTER THAN YOU DO.**

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 1- CIRCUMSTANTIAL PEACE

*Peace is not circumstantial. Peace can be experienced in any circumstance, even difficult ones because the Lord of peace is with us.*

*Peace can be disturbed but it cannot be stolen.*

*-Pastor Donovan*

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 1- CIRCUMSTANTIAL PEACE DAY 1, DECEMBER 4TH

**Read: 2 Thessalonians 3:16**

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

**Prayer:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

**Supplication:** This simply means that you know what you want from God, and you make it clearly known to Him.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 1- CIRCUMSTANTIAL PEACE DAY 2, DECEMBER 5TH

**Read: 1 Peter 4:12-14**

***Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.***

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 1- CIRCUMSTANTIAL PEACE DAY 3, DECEMBER 6TH

**Read: John 16:31-33**

**Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**

**Prayer:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 1- CIRCUMSTANTIAL PEACE DAY 4, DECEMBER 7TH

**Read: Isaiah 26:3-4 (entire chapter is worth the read)**

**You keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on you,  
because he trusts in you.  
Trust in the Lord forever,  
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 1- CIRCUMSTANTIAL PEACE DAY 5, DECEMBER 8TH

**Read: Ephesians 2:14-17**

**For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.**

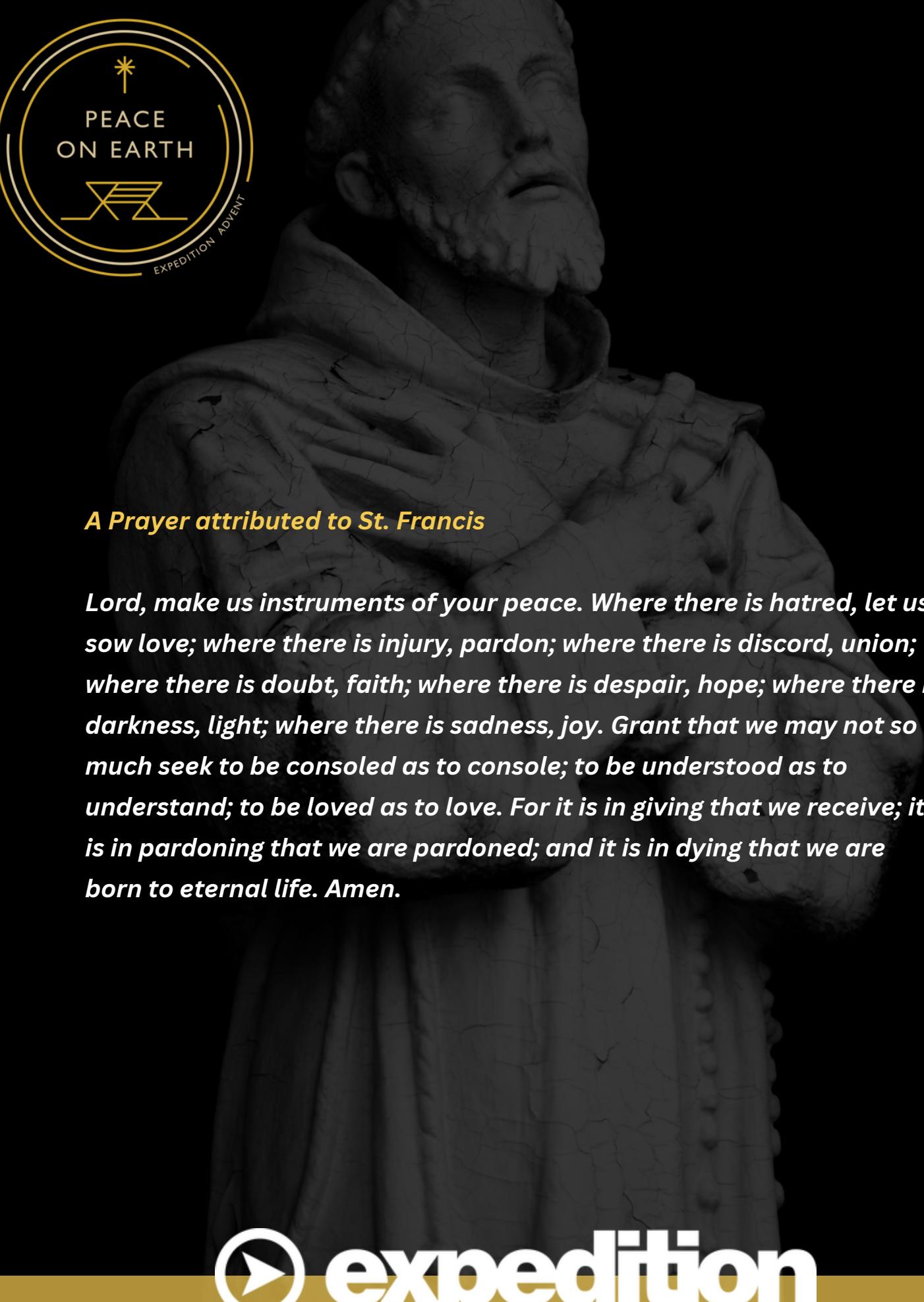
**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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*A Prayer attributed to St. Francis*

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

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## PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 2- THE PEACE GIVER

*There are various means and methods for getting peace, but the only way to have true peace is through the giver of peace, Jesus.*

*-Pastor Donovan*

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## PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 2- THE PEACE GIVER DAY 1, DECEMBER 11TH

**Read: John 14:26-27**

**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 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.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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## PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 2- THE PEACE GIVER DAY 2, DECEMBER 12TH

**Read: Matthew 11:28-30**

**Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

**Prayer:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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## PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 2- THE PEACE GIVER DAY 3, DECEMBER 13TH

**Read: 2 Peter 1:1-2**

**Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the  
righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:  
May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of  
Jesus our Lord.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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## PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 2- THE PEACE GIVER DAY 4, DECEMBER 12TH

**Read: John 14:6-7**

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."**

**Prayer:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

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## PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 2- THE PEACE GIVER DAY 5, DECEMBER 13TH

**Read: Romans 5:1-5**

**Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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*From the Book of Common Prayer:*

*Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

*O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 3 - PEACE GIVERS

*Jesus gives us peace and he wants us to give that same peace to others. People who are not at peace will perpetuate non-peace.*

*-Pastor Donovan*

*"If we are going to find lasting solutions to difficult conflicts or external wars we find ourselves in, we first need to find our way out of internal wars that are poisoning our thoughts, feelings, and attitudes towards others."*

*-Arbinger Institute*

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 3 - PEACE GIVERS DAY 1, DECEMBER 18TH

**Read: Colossians 3:14-17**

**And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 3 - PEACE GIVERS DAY 2, DECEMBER 19TH

**Read: 1 Peter 3:10-11 (cited from Psalm 32:12-16)**

**For “Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,  
let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;  
let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 3 - PEACE GIVERS DAY 3, DECEMBER 20TH

**Read: Matthew 5:9 (entire chapter is worth the read)**

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

**Prayer:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Supplication:** This simply means that you know what you want from God, and you make it clearly known to Him.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 3 - PEACE GIVERS DAY 4, DECEMBER 21ST

**Read: Matthew 5:43-45**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."**

**Prayer:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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# PEACE ON EARTH

WEEK 3 - PEACE GIVERS DAY 5, DECEMBER 22ND

**Read: James 3:17-18**

**But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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