

## Peace Is Presence

### Description

John 14:22-31

We pray for peace in the Middle East, and the fighting continues. We pray for peace in our country, and conflict remains. We pray for peace in our families, and see tensions flare. We can even seek peace in nature or spa-like settings and find that peace still eludes us. It reminds me of Jeremiah 8:11: "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace."

Ronald Reagan, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr. all have quotes about peace that are easy to find online. Mother Teresa also talked about peace. "Peace begins with a smile." Yet, none of these quotes can fully grasp Christ's peace. Christ's peace is not like the world's peace. It is not the absence of conflict, a serene setting, or being one with nature or yourself.

Christ's peace is the very presence of God with us. It is a fruit of the Spirit and the presence of the Spirit in us. In the presence of God, we can do just what Jesus said and keep our hearts untroubled and without fear. He is our peace.

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