

INNER PEACE

2 Thessalonians 3:16

CONTINUAL PEACE

- it's possible to have peace of mind in every circumstance of life (2 Thess 3:16)
- "continually" (of time, lit. 'through every *time*') and "in every circumstance" (of place, lit. 'in every turn') suggest a continual, uninterrupted mental peace—in good times and in bad
- this inner peace is available anytime, anywhere, day in, day out, in every situation of life (with temporary setbacks, of course)
- are you at peace with yourself? or are you always angry, fearful, worrying? is a war raging in your mind?

FOR ALL

- inner peace is available to all Christians (2 Thess 3:16)
- "may give" expresses a possibility or obtainable wish (optative mood)—implying some doubt or uncertainty (cf. Rom 15:13)
 - Paul's desire was for every person in the church to have continual inner peace no matter what difficulties they faced
- even though this peace was available to everyone, the apostle knew many believers in the church would never experience it

FROM JESUS CHRIST

- inner peace comes from the Lord (2 Thess 3:16)
- the Lord Jesus Christ continually gives His own perfect peace of mind to Christians
- if it is continually given, then peace of mind is always available in all the various circumstances of life—no matter how difficult

FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

- inner peace comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- peace of mind is a fruit of the Spirit and is the natural result of walking in the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:16)

FROM THE BIBLE

- inner peace comes from a knowledge of God's Word (2 Pet 1:2)
- *en* ('through') is a preposition of means indicating what must be done for inner peace to be multiplied to you—Bible study
- inner peace is proportional to how much you know about God and His Son—the more you know, the more peace you'll have
 - learn all you can about God (attributes, will, desires, commands, promises) and the person and work of Jesus Christ
- inner peace is an obtainable wish (optative mood)—it's possible for your peace to multiply from a few minutes to hours a day

FROM THE PROMISES OF GOD

- inner peace comes from believing God's promises (Rom 15:13)
- *en* ('through') introduces the means or mechanics by which mental peace is acquired—by claiming the promises of the Bible
- e.g., "casting all your care upon him" (1 Pet 5:7) provides inner peace because you're no longer worried about your problems

FROM PRAYER

- inner peace comes from prayer (Phil 4:6–7)
- these verses are cause and effect: first you pray (6) and then you receive the peace of God (7)
- peace in testing (loss, suffering, tragedy, persecution) is beyond human comprehension—most are angry, afraid, or worried
- God's peace stands guard at your heart's door to keep worries out, to keep them from coming in and stealing your peace—of guards who keep people *in* (ethnarch of Damascus put guards at the city gates to keep Paul from escaping, 2 Cor 11:32–33) or keep people *out* (Josephus stationed guards along the roads to keep couriers out of Galilee, Josephus, *Life* 240)
- inner peace perpetuates itself by keeping worries out: peace of mind is so wonderful you simply won't let anything spoil it