

Life Group Study

Steve Gambill – Peace Over Panic (23/03/20)



Recap

In this preach, Steve focused on the idea “Peace Over Panic”. In these cautious times, confusion and fear can creep into our daily routine, as we are presented with new obstacles and limitations in the way we live our lives. However, Jesus is still our anchor and our hope. Steve bases his preach on **John 14:27** to bring us a fresh message of peace when uncertainty tries to speak louder. He broke this down into 3 main points:

1. Receive His peace

Peace is a constant way of life. However, our peace can sometimes be overwhelmed by the news around us: there is a panic that can emerge when we are unprepared. Panic is like a fire which gets fueled by our unhealthy thoughts and fear-filled conversations.

However, peace can also be like a fire. We can choose to focus on the thoughts and conversations that fuel our peace, rather than our panic.

2. Jesus is the peace-giver

If God can give us more, we should be ready to receive more. Steve reminds us of **Isaiah 43:2**, that says we don’t need to be overwhelmed by the fears around us because we are anchored in the Living God, the Lord of Lords. Whatever we are going through, we can trust Him for good things to happen in our lives.

3. How can you move the needle?

Steve gives an example of a car’s fuel to talk about how we can sometimes choose to run our lives with the needle gauge closer to “empty”, rather than to “full”. We can decide to move the needle from what it means to be “full of fear”, towards “full of faith” instead. In this season, let’s decide to not just be panic-free, but also to move the needle. Let God’s Word and the certainty of His promises fill your life.

Steve finishes by reading **Psalms 91**, to encourage us with this promise that we are protected by the Almighty God. We still need to prepare ourselves and do our part – taking care of our health, and respecting the government’s guidelines. But we can also prepare ourselves spiritually, and fill our souls with faith and hope. We can be peace-makers wherever we are, and let God’s peace overflow from us onto others.



Scripture

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Isaiah 43:2 (NIV) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

Psalms 91 (MSG) You who sit down in the High God’s presence, spend the night in Shaddai’s shadow, say this: “God, you’re my refuge. I trust in you and I’m safe!”
That’s right—he rescues you from hidden traps, shields you from deadly hazards. His huge outstretched arms protect you— under them you’re perfectly safe; his arms fend off all harm.



Discuss

Because it was Jesus that gave us peace, this isn't like the way we are given other things. There is no circumstance, person or illness with authority to rob us of it. Because we are a new creation, there are new attributes that come from Jesus and that are deep in our soul just wanting to come out. It is a Peace that comes from within, not from outside circumstances or moments.

Peace is with us always, it doesn't go away. But it can be silenced by the voices of fear. Steve believes fear is also part of us, and it can protect us from making decisions that will harm us, but that it can't take control of our lives. We can change the source that feeds the fire in us, from the uncertainty of the world to the certainty of God's faithfulness. From the bad news reports to the good news reports that fuel our hope.



Questions

1. Is your home a haven for peace, or is it fear-centered?
2. What daily habits can you form to fuel peace in our lives?
3. Are there any areas in your life that need the peace of God?
4. How can you move the needle from fearful to faith-filled?
5. How much more peace can you receive?
6. How can you share peace with others this week?



Prayer

Areas that we should pray over include:

1. Pray for peace in your life and your household
2. Pray for God to help you not to be overwhelmed by panic and fear
3. Pray for opportunities to be a peace-maker in the lives around you