

# THE WAR

FASTING 2025

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

John 14:27 NLT

The anniversary of D-Day reminds us of a crucial moment in history: the landing of the Allied troops in Normandy that marked the beginning of the end of World War II. While this event brought peace to Europe eleven months later, it also invites us to reflect on the true meaning of peace and how it differs from mere tranquility.

## Peace vs. Tranquillity

In our daily lives, we often confuse peace with the absence of problems, much like the idea of "Hakuna Matata" from The Lion King. However, true peace, as John 14:27 tells us, is a divine gift that resides in the heart and mind, and is not dependent on external circumstances. It is not simply being free of conflicts or having a carefree life. The peace that Jesus gives is incomparable and cannot be provided by the world.

As we look at history, we see that the arrival of peace after war did not mean inactivity or complacency. It was a time of reconstruction and restoration, a collaborative effort to rebuild what had been destroyed. This serves as a powerful reminder that peace often requires continued effort to maintain and protect what has been conquered.

## The Peace that Jesus Offers

*Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. 'I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household!' If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.*

**Matthew 10:34-39 NLT**

Jesus makes it clear that the peace He brings is not what we might expect. It is full of challenges and, at times, can cause division. Peace in Christ involves making difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions. It also means accepting challenges, carrying our cross, and being willing to sacrifice our comfort for a greater purpose.

Jesus calls us to an active and redemptive peace that leads us to confront and overcome the chains of earthly slavery: cultural, social, and spiritual. This contrasts with the notion of tranquility, which is momentary complacency without the effort of transformation and growth.

**Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead  
these people to possess all the land  
I swore to their ancestors I would give them.**

**Joshua 1:6 NLT**

To experience true peace, we must engage daily in the personal and collective 'wars' we face. This involves renewing our minds, challenging unjust systems, and working diligently toward personal and community liberation, all while remembering that we were created to be the head and not the tail.

Genuine peace goes beyond being calm; it is a constant dynamic of growth, challenges, and restoration that invites us to actively participate in the kingdom of God, extending His love and justice to every corner of our world.

The practical application of peace in our lives involves recognizing the areas where we have confused tranquility with peace. Are we settling for the security of our 'peace of mind' avoiding the change we know is necessary? We are called to step out of our comfort zone, to positively impact our environment and to be agents of change, bringing the freedom and transformation of Jesus where it is needed most.

### **Application**

Observe your environment, whether in your home or your place of work or study. Identify a situation where God's justice or righteousness is not being manifested, and ask yourself what you can do to change it. Pray about it, asking your Heavenly Father for the courage to confront it, even if it means losing some of your peace of mind. For example, in a situation where someone is bullying another person, we can either step aside because we are not directly involved, or ask the Lord for a strategy to help the victim and thus bring His Kingdom and justice to that situation.

### **Reflection Question**

In what areas of your life have you confused tranquility with peace? Where can you begin to implement changes that reflect the true peace that Jesus promises, even if they involve sacrifice and effort?