Guard Your House

Guarding the dwelling place of God and protecting the peace He has given you

1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Hebrews 2:1 (KJV)

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

God's Dwelling Place

Genesis 2:7 (KJV)

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis 2:7 describes God giving Adam life; it does not explicitly describe Adam as the temple of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Adam's fellowship with God is evident, but calling Adam God's temple would be an inference.

For the New Testament believer, however, God's indwelling is explicitly stated:

John 14:17 (KJV)

"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (KJV)

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

John 14:23 (KJV)

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

God doesn't just meet you at the church building. He lives in you. You belong to Him.

Guard What God Has Entrusted to You

God has given us peace through Jesus Christ. We must give earnest attention to His Word and guard what He has entrusted to us.

Romans 5:1 (KJV)

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

You cannot stop every thought from coming, every problem from arising, or every person from speaking—but you can guard what you allow to settle in your house.

Twelve Things That Will Try to Take Your Peace

1. Strife and Conflict

Arguments, contention, division, and the constant need to prove you are right can rob your house of peace.

James 3:16–18 (KJV)

> "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Philippians 4:6–7 (KJV)

> "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Galatians 5:13–26 (KJV)

> "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, **strife**, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

2. Worry and Fear

Anxiety about tomorrow, finances, health, family, or what might happen. Worry tries to make you solve tomorrow's problems in today's mind.

Philippians 4:6–7 (KJV)

> "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Matthew 6:34 (KJV)

> "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

3. Offense, Unforgiveness, and Bitterness

Holding a grudge, rehearsing the hurt, or refusing to release what someone said or did keeps the offense alive and gives it room in your house.

Ephesians 4:31–32 (KJV)

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Hebrews 12:14–15 (KJV)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;"

4. Guilt and Condemnation

Unconfessed sin, regret over past failures, or living under shame after God has forgiven you can steal peace. Confess what needs to be confessed, receive His forgiveness, and stop rehearsing what He has forgiven.

Psalm 32:3–5 (KJV)

"When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."

Romans 8:1 (KJV)

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

5. Comparison, Envy, and Jealousy

Measuring your life against someone else's and allowing their blessings to become a source of frustration will disturb your peace.

Proverbs 14:30 (KJV)

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."

James 3:16 (KJV)

"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

6. Discontentment and Greed

Always needing more and continually focusing on what you lack instead of giving thanks for what you have keeps the heart restless.

Philippians 4:11–12 (KJV)

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

Hebrews 13:5 (KJV)

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

7. Anger and Frustration

Allowing disappointments, delays, inconvenience, or other people's behavior to rule your emotions gives anger an opportunity to take over the house.

Ephesians 4:26–27 (KJV)

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."

James 1:19–20 (KJV)

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

8. Busyness, Overload, and Distraction

Becoming so consumed with responsibilities that time with the Lord gets crowded out leaves the soul troubled. Martha was "careful and troubled about many things."

Luke 10:38–42 (KJV)

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

9. Pride and the Need to Control

Insisting on having your own way, leaning on your own understanding, and carrying burdens God invites you to cast upon Him will rob you of rest.

1 Peter 5:5–7 (KJV)

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

10. What You Feed Your Mind

Dwelling on imagined disasters, negative reports, accusations, and voices that crowd out God's Word will affect your peace. What you continually entertain eventually influences the atmosphere of your house.

Philippians 4:8 (KJV)

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

11. Disobedience

Knowing what God has said but choosing not to do it interrupts the peace that comes from walking in His ways.

Isaiah 48:18 (KJV)

"O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:"

12. Doubt and Unbelief

Wavering between trusting God's promises and surrendering to what circumstances seem to say produces instability instead of peace.

James 1:6–8 (KJV)

> "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Guard Your House

Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Your heart and mind are not places where every thought, offense, fear, argument, or report should be allowed to take up residence.

Give earnest heed to the Word. Walk in the Spirit. Cast your care upon the Lord. Forgive quickly. Refuse strife. Keep your mind stayed on Him. Guard your house—and let the peace of God rule within.