

# Gathering

## PEACE

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Imagine a peaceful scene in your mind. Maybe you can imagine yourself sitting on the bank of a babbling brook. Or you're all alone, quietly watching the sun rise in the morning while drinking your cup of coffee or tea. Or perhaps your peace is just knowing everything is neat and tidy, and there's nothing to do but relax...

Do these moments ever actually happen?! Few of us can remember the last time we saw a babbling brook, let alone had a day where there was nothing to do but relax! We get this idea in our minds that peace should resemble a time or circumstance that is characterized by quiet, calm and rest. In truth, these moments of outer peace can be rare and fleeting, disturbed by some crisis, need, or a child running around the house throwing his Lego® blocks everywhere.

In contrast to this outer peace, the true peace that God gives is a quiet and restful calm that exists in spite of our external circumstances. Read today's verse from Micah.

*"He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses."*  
Micah 5:4-5

In these verses we see that even in spite of God's presence with them, the enemy comes marching in to invade their peace. Their security and peace, however, rests on God's loving care for them and on the certainty of His victory in their lives.

We try so hard to protect ourselves from problems that could arise, but even if we have a great "fortress" and several lines of defense, we could never be completely protected from all of life's troubles. Difficult situations and problems will arise to disturb our outer peace. Yet, in spite of whatever struggle we are facing, we can have a deep inner peace because we trust in God's character, His love for us, and His certain victory. Peace does not depend upon our capabilities, our strength, or our circumstances, but on the unchanging nature of God.



Micah 5:4-5





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Describe moments of **peace** that you are able to have right **now**, moments where you are experiencing both inner and outer **peace**.



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What are things in your **life** that are causing you to feel a **disturbance** in your **peace**, things that feel more like **chaos** or like you're at **war**?



# Gathering PEACE

What are some of the "**fortresses**" that we put in place to try to keep **struggles** out of our **lives**?



# Gathering PEACE

What does **God's peace** look like in the midst of a **time** of **struggle**?



# Gathering PEACE

What are some of the attributes of **God** that bring **peace** and **comfort** in **times** of **struggle**?



*“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.”*

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Write down some of the attributes of  
God and/or Scriptures that you can  
remember the next time you do not  
feel His peace amidst your chaos.

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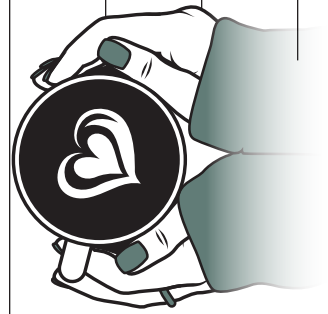
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