

Not Every Peace Is from God: 7 Ways the Enemy Imitates the Holy Spirit

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We live in a chaotic, noisy, anxiety-ridden world. As a result, the number one thing most Christians are desperate for is Peace. We pray for it. We sing about it. We treat it as the ultimate sign of God's approval.

We have a saying in the church: *"If you have peace about it, do it."*

We use "peace" as our spiritual compass.

* "I decided to date him because I felt at peace about it."

* "I decided to quit my job because I felt a peace come over me."

* "I stopped going to that church because I just didn't feel peace."

But here is the dangerous reality that very few people talk about: The Devil gives peace, too. Satan is not a creator; he is a counterfeiter. He cannot create gold, so he creates "Fool's Gold." He cannot create truth, so he creates "Half-Truths." And he cannot create the **Shalom** of God, so he creates a synthetic, toxic imitation called False Peace.

The Bible warns us about this repeatedly. In Jeremiah 6:14, God rebukes the false prophets, saying: *"They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace."*

Imagine a doctor telling a patient with gangrene, "Everything is fine, just sleep." That doctor isn't bringing healing; he is bringing death. The patient might feel "peaceful" because they are ignorant of the infection, but that peace is a trap.

If you follow the wrong kind of peace, you can walk straight into a cliff.

* Jonah slept peacefully in the bottom of a boat while running **away** from God.

* Jesus slept peacefully in the back of a boat while walking **in** the will of God.

Both men were sleeping. Both men looked peaceful. But one was the peace of Stupor, and the other was the peace of Sonship.

How do you tell the difference? How do you know if the "calm" you feel is the Holy Spirit confirming your path, or the enemy sedating your conscience?

Today, we are going to learn the art of discernment. We are going to expose the 7 Ways the Enemy Imitates the Holy Spirit. We are going to shatter the illusion of False Peace so that you can find the rugged, unshakeable, true Peace of God.

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Number 1: The Peace of Stupor — The Jonah Syndrome

The first and most deceptive form of false peace is the Peace of Unconsciousness.

Let's look at the story of Jonah. God commands him to go to Nineveh. Jonah hates Nineveh. He rebels. He goes down to Joppa, pays a fare, and gets on a boat to Tarshish—the exact opposite direction of God's will.

Then, a massive, life-threatening storm hits the boat. The sailors are panicking. They are throwing cargo overboard. They are screaming.

Where is Jonah?

Jonah 1:5 says: *"But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep."*

How can a man in open rebellion against God sleep so soundly?

This is what the enemy does: He anesthetizes your conscience.

When you decide to run from God—when you decide to live in sin, or abandon your calling—the enemy often grants you a temporary season of "numbness." The conviction stops. The anxiety stops. You feel a strange sense of calm.

You might think, "See? I made the right choice. The pressure is gone."

But that isn't the Peace of God; that is the Peace of a Coma.

When a person freezes to death, in the final moments, they stop shivering. They actually feel warm and sleepy. It feels pleasant. But that "peace" is the immediate precursor to death.

The enemy wants you asleep while your ship is sinking. He wants you comfortable in your compromise.

True Peace (Holy Spirit Peace) awakens you. It makes you alert.

False Peace (Demonic Peace) dulls your senses. It makes you indifferent to the danger around you.

If you are "at peace" with a sin that the Bible clearly condemns, you are not experiencing the fruit of the Spirit; you are experiencing the chloroform of the devil. Wake up, sleeper.

Number 2: The Peace of Avoidance — Relief is Not Peace

There is a massive difference between Peace and Relief.

* Relief comes when you stop doing something hard.

* Peace comes when you do the right thing.

The enemy loves to sell you "Relief" and label it "Peace."

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For example: God calls you to have a difficult conversation with a friend. You need to confront them. You are anxious about it. Your stomach is in knots.

So, you decide: "I'm not going to do it. I'll just ghost them."

Immediately, the knot in your stomach goes away. You take a deep breath. You feel "peace."

You tell yourself, "God must not want me to do it, because I feel so much better now that I decided not to."

That is a lie. You are confusing the absence of tension with the presence of God.

Of course you feel better! You just dropped a heavy weight. But you dropped it in the wrong place.

You didn't solve the problem; you avoided the problem.

Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane. He was sweating blood. He was in agony.

If He had decided, "I'm not going to the Cross," He would have felt immediate physical relief. His adrenaline would have dropped. He would have felt "better." But He would have lost our salvation.

Instead, He pushed **through** the agony to get to the other side of obedience.

The Holy Spirit often leads us **into** trouble, not away from it. He leads us into the difficult conversation, into the repentance, into the hard work.

If your "peace" is solely based on running away from responsibility, that is the Peace of Avoidance. It is the peace of the sluggard. True peace is found on the other side of obedience, not on this side of escape.

Number 3: The Peace of Familiarity — The "Egypt" Comfort

Human beings crave safety. We love what we know. We prefer a familiar hell to an unfamiliar heaven.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they started to panic. They were free, but they were uncomfortable. They didn't know where the next meal was coming from.

So, what did they cry out for?

"We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic." (Numbers 11:5).

They romanticized their slavery. They remembered the food, but they forgot the whips.

They wanted to go back to Egypt because Egypt was Familiar.

Sometimes, the enemy gives you the "Peace of the Familiar."

* You stay in a dead church because "it's where my family goes."

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* You stay in a toxic relationship because "I'm afraid of being alone."

* You stay in a job that is killing your soul because "it pays the bills."

You feel a sense of "peace" about staying. But is it peace? Or is it just Fear of the Unknown? God is a Disruptor.

When God wants to move you to the Promised Land, He has to disturb your comfort in Egypt. He has to make the nest thorny so the eagle will fly.

If you are praying for direction, and you feel a "peace" about staying exactly where you are—check your heart. Are you anchored in God, or are you anchored in your routine? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of movement. He is the wind. He rarely lets you settle in a place of stagnation for too long. Do not mistake your comfort zone for the Will of God.

Number 4: The Peace of Agreement — The Echo Chamber

We all want to be liked. We want approval. We want validation.

The enemy knows this, so he offers us the Peace of Agreement.

This happens when you surround yourself with people who tell you exactly what you want to hear.

* You want to get a divorce? You find three friends who hate their husbands too, and they say, "Yes, girl, leave him! You deserve to be happy!"

* You want to justify a sin? You find a podcast or a teacher who says, "That's not really a sin in the original Greek."

When everyone around you is nodding their heads, you feel a tremendous sense of peace. You feel validated. You think, "God is confirming this through my community."

But look at Ahab in 1 Kings 22. He wanted to go to war. He gathered 400 prophets. All 400 of them said, "Go! Victory is yours!"

Ahab felt great. He had consensus. He had peace.

But there was one prophet, Micaiah, who said, "If you go, you will die."

Ahab hated Micaiah because he ruined the "peace." But Micaiah was the only one telling the truth.

The Holy Spirit is often the dissenting voice in the room.

If your "peace" is dependent on everyone agreeing with you, you are in an Echo Chamber, not a Prayer Closet.

True peace can stand alone. True peace can look a crowd in the face and say, "You are all wrong." Jesus had peace, even when the Pharisees, the Romans, and the crowds were screaming for His

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death. His peace didn't come from a poll; it came from the Father.

Beware the peace that comes from people-pleasing. It is a trap that leads to destruction.

Number 5: The Peace of Circumstance — The "Fair-Weather" Faith

This is the most fragile type of peace. It is the peace that exists only when everything is going right.

- * Your bank account is full.
- * Your health is good.
- * Your kids are behaving.
- * Therefore, you feel "peace."

The enemy loves this kind of peace because it is easy to destroy. All he has to do is touch your circumstances, and your peace evaporates.

This is the accusation Satan made against Job. He said to God, "Does Job fear God for nothing? You have put a hedge around him... But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will curse you to your face." (Job 1:9-11).

Satan argued that Job's "peace" was just the result of Job's prosperity.

The Holy Spirit offers a different kind of peace. Jesus called it "My Peace."

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

How does the world give peace? By removing the trouble.

How does Jesus give peace? By giving you power *in* the trouble.

The Peace of God is a paradox. It is the calm *in* the storm. It is the song *in* the prison (like Paul and Silas).

If your peace disappears the moment you get a flat tire, or the moment you get a bad medical report, it wasn't the peace of God. It was the peace of circumstance.

The enemy counterfeits peace by manipulating your environment. God creates peace by transforming your internal world so that the environment no longer matters.

Do not trust a peace that requires a perfect day to exist. Trust the peace that can walk on water when the waves are high.

Number 6: The Peace of the Flesh — Satiation vs. Satisfaction

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We are dual beings. We have a Spirit (which wants God) and a Flesh (which wants sin/comfort/pleasure).

These two are at war (Galatians 5:17).

Here is the scary part: When you give the Flesh what it wants, it stops screaming.

And when the screaming stops, you feel... peaceful.

* An addict feels anxious and agitated when they are craving the drug. The moment they take the drug, they feel "peace."

* A person consumed by lust feels agitated. The moment they give in to the sin, they feel a temporary "calm."

* An angry person feels agitated. The moment they scream at someone and "vent," they feel "better."

The enemy calls this Peace. The Bible calls it Satiation.

You have fed the beast, so the beast is sleeping. But a sleeping beast is not a dead beast. It will wake up hungrier tomorrow.

This is the "Peace of Carnal Comfort."

You might say, "I felt so much anxiety about that restriction, so I dropped it, and now I feel peace."

Be careful. Did you find peace, or did you just stop fighting the good fight?

When a soldier surrenders to the enemy, the shooting stops. The battlefield becomes quiet. But he is now a prisoner.

Do not mistake the silence of surrender for the peace of victory.

True peace often involves a continuing battle against the flesh. It is the peace of knowing you are honoring God, even if your body is screaming.

Number 7: The Peace of Illusion — The "False Prophet" Peace

Finally, there is a demonic peace that comes from believing a lie.

2 Thessalonians 2:11 speaks of a "strong delusion" sent so that people will believe the lie.

The enemy is the Father of Lies. He can construct a reality tunnel for you that looks perfect, feels logical, and seems peaceful, but is entirely false.

* A person might feel "peace" about joining a cult because it answers all their questions.

* A person might feel "peace" about believing that "all roads lead to heaven" because it removes the tension of evangelism.

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* A person might feel "peace" about their own goodness, believing they don't need repentance.

This is the Peace of the Blind.

If you are walking toward a cliff, but you are blindfolded and believe you are walking in a meadow, you will feel peaceful. Your heart rate will be low. You will be smiling.

But your feelings do not change the geography. The cliff is still there.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13).

Sometimes, the Truth disturbs us. The Truth exposes us. The Truth wrecks our illusions.

When the Holy Spirit comes, He often brings a sword (Matthew 10:34) before He brings the olive branch. He has to cut away the lie before He can heal the soul.

If your peace is based on ignoring parts of the Bible, or ignoring the reality of sin, or ignoring the warnings of wise counsel—it is an illusion.

It is better to be painfully awake in the Truth than peacefully asleep in a Lie.

Conclusion: How to Test the Spirits

So, how do we know? If we feel peace, how do we test if it is from God or the Enemy?

We use the Colossians Umpire.

Colossians 3:15 says, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."*

The Greek word for "rule" here is **brabeuo**, which means to act as an Umpire.

An umpire decides what is "safe" and what is "out."

But an umpire doesn't guess; an umpire has a Rule Book.

The Rule Book is the Word of God.

True Peace always aligns with Scripture.

* If you have peace about sin, it's a lying spirit.

* If you have peace about unforgiveness, it's a lying spirit.

* If you have peace about ignoring God, it's a lying spirit.

True Peace is coupled with Purity.

James 3:17 says, *"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving..."*

Notice the order: First Pure, Then Peaceful.

God will never give you peace at the expense of purity.

The enemy says, "Peace at any cost."

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God says, "Purity first, and Peace will follow."

Do not settle for the cheap imitation. Do not settle for the sedative of the enemy.

Fight for the true Shalom of God. It is a peace that doesn't make sense to the world (Philippians 4:7). It is a peace that can sing in the fire. It is a peace that rests in the bottom of the boat, not because it is ignoring the storm, but because it knows the Captain.

"Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble." (Psalm 119:165)