



# House of Study.

theological and practical content for personal and spiritual development.

## Peace As Status Not A Feeling

Romans 5:1 — “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### Introduction

“Peace” is one of the most misused words in the modern spiritual vocabulary. We often chase it as a feeling, hoping it will settle our minds or soothe our surroundings. But the Apostle Paul opens Romans 5 with a proclamation that peace is not primarily an emotion—it is a position. What if peace is not something you achieve but something you receive? What if it’s not something you feel but somewhere you now stand?

### Theological Exploration

The Greek word Paul uses here—*εἰρήνη* (*eirēnē*)—carries deep theological weight. While often translated as peace, its usage in this verse points to a restored relationship more than an internal emotional state. It is covenantal, not casual. It means that a fundamental rupture between God and humanity has been healed. This is not merely a subjective calm; it is objective reconciliation.

As Sam Storms explains, “Peace with God is more than a cessation of hostility. It is the inauguration of intimacy, friendship, and love.” It is not the kind of peace we feel after a good night’s sleep—it is the kind of peace that ends a war and begins a new kingdom.

Paul will make this even clearer just a few verses later in Romans 5:10, referring to us as former “enemies” who were reconciled through the death of Jesus. This language recalls the estrangement first seen in Genesis 3, where the presence of God is forfeited. Sin does not simply break divine law; it breaks divine relationship.

The grammar of Paul’s writing is significant. “Having been justified by faith” (*δικαιωθέντες οὖν ἐκ πίστεως*) is a perfect passive participle, meaning a completed act with ongoing results. In other words: You have been justified, and that justification continues to hold. It’s not a fragile status—it is secured grace.

Terry Cross suggests that justification is more than legal standing; it is relational invitation. It brings us back into the space where communion with God is not only possible—it is promised.

And here lies Paul’s true emphasis: Peace is not self-generated. It is God-initiated, Christ-mediated, and Spirit-sealed. “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” There is



no bypass. No alternate route. No self-help strategy can reproduce this peace. It comes only through the crucified and risen Christ.

This echoes the Hebrew concept of shalom, which isn't merely the absence of conflict but the presence of wholeness, flourishing, and right order. While Paul uses the Greek *eirēnē*, the Jewish undercurrent of shalom pulses beneath the text. In Christ, God is restoring what was lost. Peace is not the end of anxiety—it is the beginning of Eden again.

### **Practical Reflection**

Many of us spend our lives chasing peace as if it were a mood. We seek it in vacations, silence, success, or spirituality. But biblical peace is not something you find by running away—it's something you stand in by believing forward.

This has profound implications. If peace is a status, then it cannot be revoked every time your emotions shift. You are not out of peace just because you're under pressure. You don't "fall out" of peace because of a bad day. If your peace was purchased by Christ, then your position before God is as steady as His resurrection.

This doesn't mean we will always feel peaceful—but it does mean that peace is the ground beneath our feet, not the wind in our face. You may walk through sorrow. You may wrestle with fear. But you walk it all out on the foundation of reconciliation.

### **Closing Exhortation**

Peace is not something you earn. It is something you enter. Let this be your breath-prayer today: "Lord, remind me—I am no longer at war. I am welcomed in."

Stand in that truth. Let your heart learn to stop striving. You have not just received forgiveness. You have received peace with God—a peace that roots you, not merely soothes you.

So, don't look for peace as a feeling. Live from peace as a fact.

### **References**

Storms, Sam. "What is Peace with God?" Enjoying God Ministries. <https://www.samstorms.org>.  
Cross, Terry L. \*The People of God's Presence: An Introduction to Ecclesiology\*. Baker Academic, 2019.

