

The image features a central illustration of an open book with its pages fanned out. Above the book, a bright, glowing cross is depicted, with light rays emanating from its center. The background is a deep, dark blue, speckled with small white dots, resembling a starry night sky or a celestial theme. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the text overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

# *Step Into the Story*

A SERMON SERIES FOR ADVENT

**Hope**

**Love**

**Christ**

**Joy**

**Peace**



STEP INTO

# Peace

JOHN 14:25-27

**What do we mean when  
we say "peace"?**





PEACE









**What do we mean when  
we say "peace"?**

**What do we mean when  
we say "peace"?**

- **Feel well?**
- **Be stress free?**
- **Absence of conflict?**

**What do we mean when  
we say "peace on  
earth"?**

- No more international war  
or global conflict?**

# "My Grown-Up Christmas List"

Amy Grant 1992

No more lives torn apart  
That wars would never start  
And time would heal all hearts  
And every one would have a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end  
This is my grown-up Christmas list

**Amen!**

**No more wars!**

**Right always wins!**

**Global peace!**

**There's just one big  
problem—  
I'll actually give  
you two...**

# 1. The human heart is bent on evil.

*Jeremiah 17:9*

*“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”*

# 1. The human heart is bent on evil.

*Genesis 8:21*

*"The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, 'I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth.'"*

2. The Word of God is  
clear that things on earth  
will get worse...not better.

*Matthew 24*

- Wars and rumors of wars
- Believers will be persecuted and killed
- Wickedness will increase
- False prophets will appear and deceive many

**Why does the Bible talk  
so much about peace,  
and where does this  
peace come from?**

And yes...  
the Bible talks a lot  
about peace.

# Romans 1:7

“To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be His holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Every letter in the New Testament  
(except for James, 1 & 3 John)  
begins with the words:  
Grace and Peace**

## Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

# John 20:19-22

“Jesus came and stood among them and said,  
‘Peace be with you!’ After He said this,  
He showed them His hands and side.

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw  
the Lord. Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you!  
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’  
And with that He breathed on them and said,  
‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

**Peace is mentioned  
nearly 100 times in the  
New Testament.  
250 times in the Bible.**

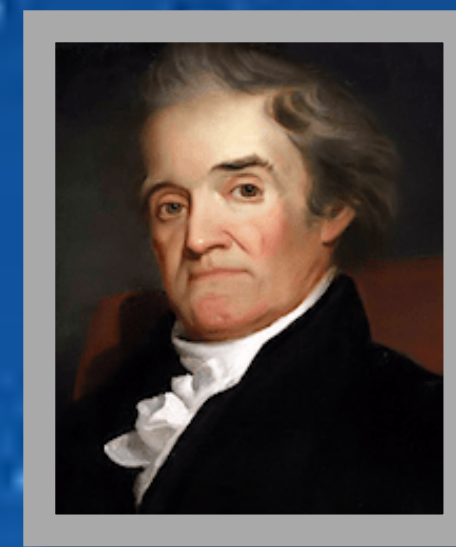
**What is peace—  
and where does it  
come from?**

# Peace:

*-In a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquillity; freedom from disturbance or agitation; applicable to society, to individuals, or to the temper of the mind.*

*[Great peace have they that love the law. Psalm 119:165]*

*-Heavenly rest; the happiness of heaven.*



**Noah Webster**

**1828**

**The question of the day:  
Where does peace come from?  
How do I step into peace?**

## John 14:23-27

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me"

## John 14:23-27

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**It's not peace in this world.**

**It's peace in US who  
live in this world.**

**Peace on earth isn't possible  
without God.**

**It's the presence of the Holy Spirit  
living within us, enabling us to  
live in fellowship with God.**

## **Ephesians 2:12-14**

**“Remember that at one time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.”**

**Jesus is our peace.**

**My grown-up Christmas list  
is that all of us would open  
our hearts to Christ, and  
receive the peace that  
the Holy Spirit brings.**

